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Reviewing the Record

Air Force will examine opportunities, discipline for service's black airmen

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Top Air Force officials announced on Tuesday they had ordered independent reviews of the Air Force's record on both military discipline and opportunities for black airmen in response to sustained national protests over race.

The review, to be conducted by the Air Force Inspector General, will "assess and capture existing racial disparities, assess Air Force-specific causal factors, like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change," the Air Force said in a news release.

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 6

U.S. Air Force basic military graduation is held May 7 on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

JOHNNY SALDIVAR/U.S. Air Force



Pacific allies wary of US housing missiles in their countries

BY DAVID S. CLOUD
Los Angeles Times

The governor of a Japanese territory where the Pentagon is thinking about basing missiles capable of threatening China has a message for the United States: Not on my island.

"I firmly oppose the idea," said Gov. Denny Tamaki, the governor of Okinawa, in an email to The Times.

Officials in other Asian countries are also signaling they don't want them.

But Pentagon planners aren't backing down after the Trump administration withdrew last year from a 33-year-old arms-control treaty that barred U.S. land-based intermediate range missiles in Asia.

Senior officials now say that putting hundreds of American missiles with non-nuclear warheads in Asia would quickly and cheaply shift the balance of power

in the western Pacific back in the United States' favor amid growing Pentagon concern that China's own expanding arsenal of missiles and other military capabilities threaten U.S. bases in the region and have emboldened Beijing to menace U.S. allies in Asia.

The missile plan is the centerpiece of a planned buildup of U.S. military power in Asia projected to consume tens of billions of dollars in the defense budget over

the next decade, a major shift in Pentagon spending priorities away from the Middle East.

But it also highlights the complex relationship between the U.S. and its Asian allies, many of whom feel increasingly threatened by China but are reluctant to back new U.S. military measures that might provoke Beijing, which has built the

SEE MISSILES ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US employers laid off 7.7M workers in April

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — U.S. employers laid off 7.7 million workers in April — a sign of just how deep the economic hole is after the closure of thousands of offices, restaurants, stores and schools during the pandemic.

The Labor Department also said in a Tuesday report that job openings plummeted and hiring all but disappeared in April. The number of available jobs fell 16%

from March, to 5 million. Hires declined 31% to 3.5 million.

The grim April — which followed an even bleaker March with 11.5 million layoffs — suggests that the economy could take time to recover nearly a decade's worth of gains that vanished in about 60 days. Hiring did rebound in May as 2.5 million jobs were added on net, the government said in a separate report Friday. But those gains appeared to reflect temporarily laid-off employees returning to work and in-

creases in people with part-time jobs, rather than an economy at full throttle.

The report shows how employers responded quickly to the pandemic by furloughing or laying off workers in March, though that slowed the following month as consumer spending appeared to bottom out and recover slightly. The Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS, details overall hiring and job separation figures, while the monthly jobs data reflects net changes.

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



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RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo

EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rate	Commercial rates
Euro (cents) (June 11)	\$1.11	0.7663
British buys (June 11)	\$0.7663	0.7663
British pound (June 11)	\$1.25	0.7693
Japanese yen (June 11)	105.00	105.00
South Korean won (June 11)	1,167.00	1,167.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776	
British pound	\$1.2753	0.7733
China (Yuan)	7.0593	7.0593
Denmark (Krone)	6.5605	6.5605
Egypt (Pound)	16.9594	16.9594
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3607/0.7739	0.7739
Hungary (Forint)	302.16	302.16
India (Rupee)	3.1441	3.1441
Japan (Yen)	107.27	107.27
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3073	0.3073
Norway (Krone)	9.3228	9.3228
Poland (Zloty)	3.92	3.92
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518	3.7518
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3846	1.3846
South Korea (Won)	1,190.26	1,190.26

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	0.15
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.06
3-month bill	0.17
30-year bond	1.58

The weather is provided by the
American Forces Network Weather Center,
2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

MILITARY



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Members of the District of Columbia Army National Guard walk to their positions near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington on June 3, securing the area amid protests after the death of George Floyd. Some guard members have tested positive for coronavirus after responding to the protests.

DC National Guard members test positive for virus after protests

BY TARA COPP

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Members of the D.C. National Guard who were responding to protests in the nation's capital over the death of George Floyd have tested positive for COVID-19, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The service members were part of the 1,300 D.C. National Guard members called up to help law enforcement respond initially to rioting May 31, that was followed by days of peaceful protests. A Guard spokeswoman did not identify how many positive tests the unit has recorded.

"We can confirm that we have had COVID-19 positive tests with the DCNG," said D.C. National Guard spokeswoman Air Force Lt. Col. Brooke Davis. "The safety and security of our personnel is always a concern, especially in light of the COVID-19 era."

The news follows reports that two members of the Nebraska National Guard who were activated in response to protests in Lincoln, Neb., have also tested positive.

The D.C. National Guard was supported by approximately 3,900 additional Guardsmen from Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah to protect national monuments and

ensure peaceful demonstrations as tens of thousands of protesters took to D.C. streets last week.

In the largest protest Saturday, participants squeezed past each other, some with masks, some not, as they chanted and sang near the White House.

Members of two National Guard units from Missouri and Mississippi on Saturday were not wearing masks, and while they tried to maintain social distance, at times it was not possible as the crowds swelled or engaged with them.

Almost all of the National Guard units were expected to leave the city by Wednesday, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told reporters Sunday.

Any Guardsman who has tested positive for the coronavirus, however, will be held back until they are no longer sick or contagious, Davis said.

"All Guardsmen who are suspected to be at high risk of infection or have tested positive for COVID-19 during demobilization will not be released from Title 32 orders until risk of infection or illness has passed," Davis said.

"Members of the Air and Army National Guard with no, or low risk of exposure, who present symptoms of infection one to 14 days after release from orders will contact their unit," she said.

Making history

USAF Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. is first African American service chief

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. was confirmed Tuesday as the 22nd Air Force chief and the first African American to be the top officer of a military service.

In announcing the unanimous Senate vote of 98-0, Vice President Mike Pence called Brown's nomination, and now confirmation, historic.

Brown, known as C.Q., is now the commander of U.S. Air Forces Pacific. He is replacing Gen. David Goldfein, who is expected to retire in the summer.

The confirmation comes as demonstrators across the United States have held protests against systemic racism and police brutality. Protests in all 50 states and in Washington, D.C., were sparked by the May 25 death of a handcuffed black man, George Floyd, by a Minneapolis police officer, who has since been fired and charged with second-degree murder.

In a video posted to Facebook on Friday, Brown poignantly described his thoughts about the recent events following the death of Floyd. He described how he was often the only African American in his squadron, and as a senior officer the only African American in the room.

"I'm thinking about how my nomination provides some hope but also comes with a heavy burden. I can't fix centuries of racism in our country, nor can I fix decades of discrimination that may have impacted members of our Air Force," he said in the video.

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, praised Brown's confirmation soon after the Senate vote.

"Gen. Brown's experience as commander of Pacific Air Forces and the air component command-



KEVIN DIETSCH/AP

The Senate unanimously confirmed Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. as chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, making him the first black officer to lead one of the nation's military services.

er of the Indo-Pacific Command will be an asset as we turn our focus even more to this priority theater," he said in a prepared statement. "Not only is Gen. Brown accomplished in his military career, but he is an inspiring leader — brave, authentic, and unifying. I congratulate him on his historic promotion, and look forward to seeing his continued leadership in action."

Brown is a battle-tested fighter pilot who commanded air forces operating in the Middle East — against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria — and Afghanistan. He has served for 34 years in the military and piloted other aircraft including bombers and helicopters, according to his official biography.

President Donald Trump praised Brown's confirmation ahead of the vote in a tweet, saying it is "a historic day for America! Excited to work even more closely with Gen. Brown, who is a Patriot and Great Leader!"

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Navy chief wants to ban Confederate battle flags in open spaces

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is working to prohibit the Confederate battle flag in public spaces a day after other Defense Department leaders said they were open to discussions about renaming 10 Army posts named for Confederate generals from the Civil War.

Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, directed his staff Tuesday to begin to write an order that would prohibit the Confederate battle flag from all public spaces and work areas on Navy installations, ships, aircraft and submarines, Cmdr. Nate

Christensen, Gilday's spokesman, said in a statement.

The Navy announcement follows growing sentiment by some active and past military leaders that displaying the Confederate battle flag or honoring Confederate figures by naming installations after them is not in agreement with military values.

"The order is meant to ensure unit cohesion, preserve good order and discipline, and uphold the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment," the Navy statement said.

In February, Marine Commandant Gen. David Berger banned

the Confederate battle flag and items with the flag on them from Marine bases. In an April letter that he posted to Twitter, Berger defended his decision, saying he did it because the flag is a symbol that "has shown it has the power to inflame feelings of division. I cannot have that division inside our Corps."

The Marine Corps on Friday also issued further guidance on the removal of public displays of the Confederate battle flag at installations and work places, including on clothing, mugs, and bumper stickers.

The topic of renaming Army posts named for Confederate

generals once again emerged on social media in the days following the death of George Floyd, an African American man, in Minneapolis. A white police officer has been charged with second-degree murder after he placed his knee on the back of Floyd's neck for several minutes while Floyd was handcuffed on the ground.

As recently as February, Army officials said there was no intention of addressing the Confederate names of Army posts. That changed Monday when Army officials said Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy wants to have a "bipartisan discussion" about renaming

10 Army posts named after Confederates. Defense Secretary Mark Esper also supported a discussion on the renaming the Army bases.

The posts are Camp Beauregard and Fort Polk in Louisiana, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia, Fort Rucker in Alabama, and Fort Hood in Texas. The installations were named primarily during the south's Jim Crow era in the 1910s and 1940s.

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MILITARY

GOP lawmakers warn against Germany plan

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — More than 20 Republican lawmakers urged President Donald Trump to reject a plan that calls for pulling nearly 10,000 troops from Germany, saying the move would weaken the NATO alliance and endanger Russian aggression.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, the minority leader of the House Armed Services Committee, along with 21 other House Republicans, said maintaining force levels in Europe is directly connected to American security.

"In Europe, the threats posed by Russia have not lessened, and we believe that signs of a weakened U.S. commitment to NATO will encourage further Russian aggression and opportunism," Thornberry's letter stated Tuesday.

Last week, media reports emerged that the White House signed off on a plan to sharply cut the number of forces in Germany. On Monday, the White House declined to confirm the reports, but also did not reject their validity.

"We have no announcements at this time," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said.

The Pentagon also has not commented publicly on the plan, which it carried out would be the largest force reduction in Europe in nearly a decade and come at a time when the military has sought to build up on the Continent to focus on countering Russia.

The cutback, first reported by The Wall Street Journal on Friday, set a September deadline for the drawdown and took allies by surprise.

Trump has long made threats about pulling back in Europe and expressed dissatisfaction with allies in Europe, especially Germany, over lackluster military spending. Berlin has long fallen short of NATO benchmarks that call for all allies to dedicate 2% of GDP to their own militaries. Germany's military shortcomings have dominated Trump's outlook on NATO.

Still, numerous former military officials and conservative security analysts aligned with Trump on other matters have taken issue with the White House on the plan to scale back in Europe.

The conservative Heritage Foundation on Tuesday stated that any plan to reduce troops in Germany misunderstands the role of U.S. forces in Europe, which exist not to protect Germany but to advance U.S. interests.

"Some robust military presence in Europe because the Europeans should defend themselves, and that the U.S. should not be providing a security umbrella at the expense of the American taxpayer," the Heritage Foundation said in a statement. "However, the primary objective of U.S. forces in Europe is to provide a forward-based military capability that gives U.S. decision makers timely and flexible military options for defending America and promoting American interests in the broader European region."

The Washington think tank called on Congress to block funding for the removal of U.S. troops from Europe.

The military has about 34,000 troops in Germany and numerous headquarters that carry out a broad range of missions stretching from NATO's eastern flank to the Middle East and Africa. It's also home to a large military hospital near Ramstein Air Base, where troops injured in places like Afghanistan and Africa are brought for trauma care.

"We strongly believe that NATO allies, such as Germany, should do more to contribute to our joint defense efforts," Thornberry wrote. "At the same time, we also know that the forward stationing of American troops since the end of World War II has helped to prevent another world war and, most importantly, has helped make America safer."

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BORIS ROESSLER, DPA/AP

A U.S. military aircraft takes off from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Sunday. According to various media outlets, President Donald Trump wants to reduce the number of soldiers stationed in Germany by up to 9,500.

Germany: US troop reduction could weaken NATO security

By DAVID RISING AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's defense minister suggested Monday that President Donald Trump's reported plans to withdraw more than a quarter of American troops out of Germany could weaken not only the NATO alliance but the U.S. itself.

Trump is said to have signed off on a plan to reduce the total of troops stationed in Germany from 34,500 to no more than 25,000, according to reports by The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, but German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer told reporters that Berlin hasn't yet been informed of any such move.

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters, confirmed to The Associated Press that there are plans to move troops, saying some could go to Poland while others could go elsewhere.

The decision is part of the president's and Department of Defense efforts to review combatant commands around the globe, the official said.

If the U.S. goes ahead, Kramp-Karrenbauer suggested the move would do more harm to NATO as a whole than to Germany's own defense.

"The fact is that the presence of U.S. soldiers in Germany serves the entire NATO alliance security, including America's own security," she said. "That is the basis on which we work together."

In Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg sidestepped a question

on the decision, saying that in general "over the last few years we have actually seen an increase in the U.S. presence" in Europe.

"What I can say is that we are constantly consulting with the United States, with other NATO allies on the military posture and presence in Europe," he said.

The Trump administration has been urging Germany to spend more on its defense to meet the NATO goal of spending 2% of gross domestic product on defense, and American officials in the past had raised the possibility of moving troops out as a veiled threat.

As such, the government's coordinator for trans-Atlantic relations, Peter Beyer, said if the plan is confirmed it wouldn't be a surprise, but that it was irritating to first learn of the possibility through media reports.

"The German-American relationship could be severely affected by such a decision of the U.S. president," Beyer told the dpa news agency.

"It's not just about 9,500 soldiers, but also about their families, so about 20,000 Americans. This would break down trans-Atlantic bridges."

The days are long gone when hundreds of thousands of American troops were stationed in Germany as a bulwark against the possibility of a Soviet invasion.

Today, the country is much more a hub for wider American military operations.

Facilities include Ramstein Air Base, critical for operations in the Middle East and Africa and headquarters to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa; the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center,

which has saved the lives of countless Americans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; and the headquarters of both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart.

Germany is also home to the headquarters of U.S. Army Europe in Wiesbaden, an F-16 fighter base in Spangdahlem, and the Grafenwoehr Training Area, the largest NATO training facility in Europe.

"If this is confirmed, you have to ask yourself what impact this will have on NATO and the security architecture in Europe," Beyer said.

Germany has been increasing its defense spending and the issue of troops has lain dormant for many months.

It wasn't immediately clear why it was being brought up again, but Trump's decision came shortly after Chancellor Angela Merkel said that she wouldn't attend a Group of Seven summit in person in the U.S. if the president decided to go ahead with it. Shortly after the chancellor's announcement, Trump said he was postponing the summit.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas acknowledged over the weekend that current ties with Washington were "complicated."

He voiced concerns in an interview with Bild newspaper that the U.S. presidential election campaign could further polarize Washington and stoke populist politics.

"Then co-existence within the country doesn't just become harder, it also fuels conflicts on the international level," he was quoted as saying. "That's the last thing we need."

MILITARY

US troops at Polish base bond with a new canine

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

BEMOWO PISKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland — When American troops at this base in northeastern Poland do physical training in the morning, they're helped by Nacho — not the Mexican dish, but a dog they've adopted.

"He's always with us ... in the mornings and always runs with us," said Pfc. Andrew Harris with the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Kronos Troop, which is here as part of a U.S.-led battle group aimed at strengthening NATO's eastern flank and deterring Russian aggression in Europe.

Mere months ago, Nacho was just another stray dog who made his way to the base, where troops had already adopted another dog, whom they named Chico.

After the troops made sure Nacho had all his vaccines, he started tagging along with them, especially when they were near the dining facility or a food truck.

Having a dog to pal around with reminds the troops of their pets back home, Gosia Sobolewska, a linguist with the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence mission that the troops are supporting, said last year, when Chico was the only dog at the base.

Troops from Croatia, Romania, the United Kingdom and host nation Poland are also part of the battle group and like the dogs.



IMMANUEL JOHNSON/Stars and Stripes

Nacho, left, and Chico stand still for a photo at Bemowo Piskie Training Area in Orzysz, Poland, on June 4.

Although strays wander onto bases around the world, soldiers deployed to many countries are forbidden from caring for them, said Staff Sgt. Kulani Lakanaria with the 49th Public Affairs Detachment.

"General Order No. 1 in Iraq was specific about not having

pets there," he said. "Caring for or adopting dogs there is forbidden ... because a stray animal may have diseases that could affect the troops."

But not in Bemowo Piskie, where the roughly 900 U.S. troops who began a six-month rotation January have become

so attached to Nacho, Chico and a third dog they've called Taco, who only shows up occasionally on base, that they named training scenarios after them, said Maj. Michael Dyer, the battle group's operations officer.

Points on the ground during a live-fire exercise last week were

named after Nacho and Chico, while Taco was the objective the troops were trying to take over.

"We wanted to add a little levity for a serious training scenario, and it was an easy choice to pick the dog names," Dyer said.

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Retired Navy officials plead guilty in bribery prosecution

BY KRISTINA DAVIS
The San Diego Union-Tribune

by Francis, a charismatic figure nicknamed for his girth.

Each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery in San Diego federal court in sessions conducted via teleconference due to the COVID-19 emergency.

They are among a long string of Navy officials — ranking as high as rear admiral — who've been charged in the military's worst corruption scandal in history.

Of the 33 defendants who have been charged in the U.S., 19 are current or former Navy officials who have pleaded guilty. Francis, who has been in poor health, has yet to be sentenced five years after entering his guilty plea, indicating continued cooperation in the far-reaching probe.

Nine others continue to head toward trial.

Haas was a captain on the Blue Ridge, a 7th Fleet command ship from which Francis heavily recruited allies.

Haas admitted to accepting bribes valued at \$91,000, including access to a multimay party in Indonesia called "Cinderella Liberty" that included dinner, nightclub entertainment and the services of prostitutes. Another two-day party in Tokyo reportedly cost \$75,000.

In return, Haas used his influence to benefit Glenn Defense Marine Asia, Francis' ship-support company that provided everything from water and trash removal to security and tugboat

services.

At one point during the relationship from 2011 to 2013, Haas guided the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis to Malaysia to dock at one of Francis' ports, according to the plea agreement. Francis billed the Navy \$2.7 million for the stopover.

Parks was a 7th Fleet logistics officer who admitted in an email to a Francis associate that he'd been bitten by the GDMA "bug," according to the plea agreement. The relationship lasted from 2006 to 2010, during which Parks used his official position to leak insider information, including tips about competitors and pricing, to help Francis bid for upcoming port visit contracts.

Parks was often specific about his requests for compensation, including a case of "White Hennessy" cognac. At one point, Parks asked for hotel accommodations in Hong Kong during a port visit with a fellow sailor, but when he was offered a standard hotel room he retorted via email: "I'd like something a lot nicer."

Another time, he was given a \$3,000-a-night room at a Hilton in Singapore — after requesting a \$4,000-a-night room at a Ritz-Carlton, according to the plea.

"It feels good living like a KING on an E-6's salary!!!" Parks wrote in one email to Glenn Defense, referring to his military pay grade.

He admitted to receiving bribes valued at about \$25,000.

'Atomic veterans' series for Stripes wins top award for DC journalist

BY TINA CROLEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veteran journalist Claudia Grisales won a top award Tuesday for her Stars and Stripes series about aging "atomic veterans" waging a final fight for health benefits after being exposed to secret nuclear

testing and cleanup.

Her three-part series, "Conspiracy of Silence," was selected as the top entry by the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists.

Grisales was also a finalist in the Non-Breaking News category of the DC Dateline Awards for her coverage of the death of Navy

linguist Shannon Kent in Syria, whose family fought the regulation that forced her to deploy.

Grisales is now a congressional reporter assigned to NPR's Washington Desk. Before joining NPR in June 2019, she was a Capitol Hill reporter covering military affairs for Stars and Stripes.

Grisales was recognized previ-

ously for her reporting at the Austin American-Statesman, a daily newspaper in Central Texas, where she worked for 16 years.

The Washington chapter is one of SPJ's largest. Its mission is to celebrate and advocate for the free practice of journalism and high standards of ethical behavior.

"These awards recognize some

of the best journalism being done in the Washington, D.C., region by some of the best reporters around," SPJ DC President Randy Showstack said of this year's awards.

The awards were announced online Tuesday — a first — because of the coronavirus outbreak.

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MILITARY

Senate subpanel supports 3% pay raise for troops

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A subcommittee of senators voiced support Tuesday for a 3% raise next year for U.S. military troops as the lawmakers began drafting the 2021 bill that sets Pentagon policy and spending.

The Senate's early version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act includes the boost in pay for all service members. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee's subpanel on personnel, It was the only subpanel hearing of the Senate committee to consider the 2021 NDAA that was open to the public.

Senate Armed Services Committee staffers said the other six subcommittees met Monday and Tuesday in classified sessions. The full committee is set to consider the bill on Wednesday and Thursday in sessions that will also be closed to the public.

Senators said specific details about what is included in early drafts of the bill could not be made public Tuesday. The House Armed Services Committee is expected to consider its version of the bill July 1, the committee announced last week. That hearing will be open to the public.

The final version of the NDAA is not expected to be passed until the fall. Lawmakers have until Sept. 30 to approve it on time for the new fiscal year. The bill was not passed last year until December as lawmakers wrangled over funding for wall construction on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The 3% pay raise, which if approved would go into effect in January, matches what the White House proposed in its budget recommendation submitted in February. Troops received a 3.1% boost in pay last year.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., the

subcommittee's chairman, said the current version of the NDAA supports similar end-strength numbers to the White House proposed budget. That \$705.4 billion budget request for the Pentagon proposed adding about 5,600 new troops, bringing the total force to 2,153,500 troops, including active duty, reservists and National Guard members.

Members of the subpanel unanimously voted to forward their version of the bill to the full Senate Armed Services Committee, however several Democratic senators said they opposed leaving out measures meant to address sexual harassment.

Gillibrand, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., questioned why the subcommittee did not include a measure known as the Safe to Report policy, which would strip military leaders of the power to punish sexual assault victims for infractions such as underage drinking or breaking curfews.

Gillibrand said victims often feel unsafe in reporting attacks for fear of punishment. The Air Force Academy implemented a Safe to Report policy in 2018, which the senator said has been successful.

A version of Safe to Report was included in versions of the 2020 NDAA passed last year by the House and Senate, but it was stripped from the final bill.

"That provision would've removed factors that have been found to chill survivors' willingness to make unrestricted reports — factors that contribute to three in four sexual assaults in the ranks going unreported," Gillibrand said. "We must ensure survivors can come forward without fear of minor misconduct charges for minor offenses."

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BENJAMIN COOPER/U.S. Air Force

Airmen assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, U.K. on May 27. A Senate subcommittee supported said it supported a 3% pay raise for service members in 2020.



JOHNNY SALDIVAR/Department of Defense

Air Force basic military graduation is held last month at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Air Force officials have ordered independent reviews of the service's record on both opportunities and military discipline for black airmen in response to sustained national protests over race.

Record: Air Force leaders say full results of reviews, good or bad, will be made public

FROM FRONT PAGE

The service vowed in the news release that the "full results of both reviews, good or bad," will be made fully public.

The reviews were ordered by Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond.

The reviews follow up on a memo Goldfein sent to senior Air Force leaders on June 1 in the wake of the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an African American who died when a police officer kneeled on his neck for nearly nine minutes on May 25. Video of Floyd pleading for his life sparked outrage, protests and confrontations with police across the country.

"We are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination and unconscious bias," Goldfein said in the memo. "We see this in the apparent inequity in our application of military justice. We will not shy away from this; as leaders and

"We are not immune to the spectrum of racial prejudice, systemic discrimination and unconscious bias."

Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein

as Airmen, we will own our part, and confront it head on."

The inspector general reviews, which will include input from airmen and members of the newly formed Space Force, will include interviews, group discussions and targeted and anonymous surveys, the news release said.

The inspector general has already formed an advisory group that includes 10 general officers, 10 chiefs and four senior executive service airmen—all of whom are African American, the news release said.

"In addition, a number of Airmen from all major commands will be selected to join the IG review team," the news release said. "While other disparities also

need to be reviewed, this phase will focus on African American racial disparities."

Last week, Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Rockwell, the Air Force judge advocate general, said in a letter to the Judge Advocate General Corps that the service must address racial inequality in its legal system.

Rockwell provided statistics indicating that black enlisted airmen were punished more frequently than their nonblack counterparts. For example, in 2019 black airmen faced roughly twice the rate of administrative punishment or court martial as compared the rate for white airmen.

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MILITARY

Missiles: US weapons in region could pose challenge for China

FROM FRONT PAGE

biggest navy in the world in the last decade.

Australia and the Philippines publicly ruled out hosting American missiles when the Trump administration first floated the idea last year. South Korea is also considered an unlikely location, current and former officials say.

In Japan, the decision on whether to allow U.S. missiles on its territory will be made by the central government in Tokyo. Tamaki said officials at the Pentagon and in Tokyo have told him there are no definite plans to put missiles on Okinawa. But Tamaki isn't reassured.

With a Japanese mother and an American father who served with the Marines on Okinawa before abandoning the family, Tamaki personifies the complex relationship between the U.S. and its allies in Asia. He was elected two years ago after pledging to oppose expansion of the already-substantial U.S. military presence on the island.

More than half of the 50,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan are in Okinawa, most concentrated at a Marine base surrounded by residential areas in the largest city. Opposition to the 70-year-old U.S. military presence has sparked local protests for years, which would likely intensify if there were a move to base missiles there.

"If there is such a plan, I can easily imagine fierce opposition from Okinawa residents," Tamaki said.

For the last year, the Pentagon has been testing several new types of short and intermediate range missiles — those with ranges up to 3,400 miles — including a ballistic missile that could be placed in Guam, and mobile missiles carried on trucks.

The first of the new weapons could be in operation within two years, though no decision has been announced about where they will be based. Similar missiles are now carried on U.S. warships and planes based in Asia, but there are no land-based systems.

U.S. officials say that many allies are privately supportive of the missile plan and may come around to permitting them on their territory but don't want to provoke opposition from Beijing and their own public before decisions are on the table.

The U.S. has a defense treaty with Japan, as it does with South Korea, the Philippines and Australia. Taiwan is not a formal ally but has close, unofficial defense ties with Washington.

"We are very attentive to our allies' concerns, and we recognized their political challenges," said a senior defense official, who agreed to discuss Pentagon planning if he was not identified. "Everything that's said in the media is not necessarily what's said behind closed doors."

To lessen the political opposition, the U.S. could rotate missile batteries in and out of locations around the region or place them in strategic locations without publicly disclosing it.



SCOTT HOWE/Defense.gov

On Aug. 18, the Defense Department conducted a flight test of a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile at San Nicolas Island, Calif. The U.S. is seeking to house missiles in the Pacific, though some allies don't want them.

'Ground-based missiles aren't some kind of silver bullet. But they are a way in the near term ... to create dilemmas for the [People's Liberation Army] planners.'

Eric Sayers

Center for New American Security

"It wouldn't make much sense to announce plans now, which would stoke Chinese anger and possibly play into the domestic politics," said Randy Schriver, who was a senior Pentagon official responsible for Asia until his resignation last year.

A decision to go ahead in Asia would intensify an arms race between the region's two biggest powers whose relations — already tense over Trump's confrontational trade agenda and Chinese President Xi Jinping's hawkish policies — have nosedived since the coronavirus outbreak.

"It's naive and dangerous," said Alexandra Bell, a former Obama administration arms control official and a critic of deploying U.S. missiles. "Instead of looking at how we can prevent a full-out arms race, this is our opening salvo," added Bell, a senior policy director at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington.

Putting land-based missiles in Asia capable of attacking China is not a new strategy. In the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. kept them at bases across the region, including on Okinawa, where hundreds of nuclear-armed warheads were stored secretly for decades even though Japan's constitution prohibited the presence of nuclear weapons on its territory.

The missiles were gradually

taken out of service in the 1960s and 1970s, due to budget cuts and a shift in U.S. strategy away from defense of the region focused on nuclear weapons. In 1987, the Reagan administration signed an arms control treaty that prohibited the U.S. and the Soviet Union (and later Russia) from deploying any land-based intermediate range missiles, including in Asia.

China was not a signatory, leaving it free to build up its missile arsenal.

The Trump administration withdrew from the treaty last year after accusing Russia of developing new land-based missiles that violated its terms. The exit opened the way for the Pentagon to consider reintroducing ground-launched missiles in Asia.

With mobile missiles around the region, the U.S. could pose an even bigger challenge for China, forcing it to hunt for hundreds of launchers capable of targeting its planes, ships and bases, strategists say.

"Ground-based missiles aren't some kind of silver bullet," said Eric Sayers, a former consultant to U.S. commanders in the Pacific and a fellow at the Center for New American Security, a Washington think tank. "But they are a way in the near term ... to create dilemmas for the [People's Liberation Army] planners."

Although the risk of large-scale conflict with China seems

low, tensions have continued to ratchet up over Beijing's crackdown in Hong Kong, its military maneuvers near Taiwan, its border dispute with India and its offshore maritime claims in the East China Sea and South China Sea.

Nearly a quarter of world trade travels through the South China Sea, making the contest between Beijing and Washington over control of its sea lanes and rich resources especially tense and certain to continue, no matter who wins the U.S. presidential election in November.

The U.S. Navy for decades dominated the "first island chain," as strategists call the area of the western Pacific stretching from Japan to Taiwan to the Philippines that fell within America's defense umbrella after World War II.

But American reliance on bases, warships and airfields in

the region has become increasingly risky, officials and analysts say.

China has developed its own missiles, sophisticated radars and anti-satellite weapons as well as a growing fleet of warships and submarines in recent decades that could threaten American bases and other targets early in a conflict, said Colin Koh, a research fellow in Asian maritime security at the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

China's army can project significant firepower on U.S. and allied military installations in the western Pacific and "threaten to overwhelm" American forces "in times of armed conflict," Koh said.

The Chinese weapons in many cases have ranges that exceed those on U.S. warships, though the U.S. retains a significant advantage in attack submarines and in advanced fighters and bombers armed with cruise missiles that can be fired from long distances.

"Their capability and their reach has created vulnerabilities for our legacy basing structure," said the defense official, who agreed to discuss U.S. planning on the condition that he not be identified.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Navy, CDC release study of Roosevelt sailors

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A coronavirus study of USS Theodore Roosevelt sailors released Tuesday indicated the potential for some immunity to the disease based on antibodies found in the blood of positive cases.

An investigation into the virus outbreak on the Roosevelt started in April by the Navy and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to learn more about the coronavirus and determine how it spread among the crew of the aircraft carrier and infected 1,273 of the nearly 4,800 crew members, the service said.

The study included a serology test, which looks for antibodies in the blood left in the body after it has fought off a virus. The test is used to determine who has been infected, especially if they had few or no symptoms, according to the CDC. The study found 60% of the volunteers had antibodies for the coronavirus, and of those, 59% also had neutralizing antibodies at the time their blood was drawn.

"This finding may give us an early glimpse into actual immune protection against [the coronavirus] in young adults having these intense viral exposures aboard the ship," Payne said. "These are actually important in that they could be indicators of some degree of immunity. But we don't necessarily know how long because this was a time-constrained investigation."



Photo by YOUNG K. YI/U.S. Navy

Sailors man the rails as the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt departs Apra Harbor on June 4.

The study asked for 1,000 volunteers to provide blood and swab samples and answer a survey, however only 382 Roosevelt sailors participated. The volunteers were not a representative sample of the crew population, Daniel Payne, an epidemiologist with the CDC, told reporters Tuesday. He is the lead author of the CDC study.

The study was the first look at

the coronavirus among healthy young people who were in close quarters, Payne said. Most of the current knowledge about how the virus affects people is based on older adults with underlying health conditions.

Another finding from the study was sailors who were infected were 10 times more likely to report having a symptom of loss of taste or smell compared to those

who were not infected, Payne said.

This could develop into a good screening tool for the virus, said Capt. Robert Hawkings, with the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center.

Most of the young sailors had mild symptoms.

The other most common symptoms after loss of taste and smell were muscle pains, fever and

chills, according to Payne. These are different from studies with older adults who were likely to have symptoms like a cough or shortness of breath.

The tests also indicated among the sailors who had been exposed, 18.5% were asymptomatic or about almost 1 in 5.

The entire crew of the nuclear-powered Roosevelt was tested for the coronavirus while the ship was in port in Guam for almost two months. Most of the crew was taken off the aircraft carrier and put into isolation on Guam to try to prevent the spread of the virus. Several sailors were hospitalized in Guam and one died due to complications from the virus.

Since the outbreak on the Roosevelt, the Navy has implemented fleet-wide guidance on how ships must prevent the spread of the virus and other infectious diseases while operating at sea. This includes wearing face coverings and self-monitoring for symptoms. The Navy has the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases of the military services at 2,608 as of Monday.

The Navy has also finished another investigation into its response to the outbreak on the Roosevelt and it is being reviewed by Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations. The initial investigation was expanded April 29 after former acting Navy Secretary James McPherson said the first inquiry left him with "unanswered questions."

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US military prepares to loosen restrictions on Guam

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military on Guam plans to loosen certain base restrictions for service members, civilians and their families and resume limited services early next week due to the success of coronavirus mitigation measures.

Joint Region Marianas, which has installation management authority over Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base, made the announcement in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

It also plans to modify access to the

bases, which imposed restrictions on things like shopping, restaurants, fitness and teen centers on March 17.

A spokesman for the command said details of the loosened restrictions are still being worked out.

"There's going to be a couple more meetings in the coming days," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rick Moore said by phone Wednesday. "We're just giving everybody a heads up to make sure people are looking at the Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam and [Joint Region Marianas] social media sites because changes are expected early next week."

The military on Guam was tasked with caring for sailors off the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which arrived there on March 27 after an onboard outbreak. More than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors ultimately tested positive for the coronavirus. One crew member died.

The government of Guam, a U.S. territory, is also preparing to dial back pandemic restrictions from moderate to minimum, according to a report Wednesday in the Pacific Daily News.

The island's overall rate of positive tests for the coronavirus has dropped thanks in part to the government performing hun-

dreds more tests daily with few or no new cases, the newspaper reported.

Guam was initially hit hard by the coronavirus, recording approximately 10 cases per day toward the end of March, according to a statement from the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services.

Since then, infections have decreased dramatically on the island. As of Wednesday, Guam had recorded 180 positive cases, according to the health department statement.

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'Longstanding problems' hindered VA's response to virus pandemic

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An outdated inventory system at the Department of Veterans Affairs stymied its ability to get critical medical supplies, such as masks, during the coronavirus pandemic, the director of a federal watchdog agency said Tuesday.

The Government Accountability Office has reported on the VA's antiquated inventory management system five times since

2015 and issued 40 recommendations for the department to fix it. Attempts to improve the system have been delayed multiple times and likely won't be done for several more years, said Shelby Oakley, a director with the GAO.

Global supply chain problems at the start of the pandemic affected the VA, as it did most private-sector hospitals, Oakley said. However, "longstanding problems" at the department added more barriers for the VA to get what it needed.

"VA experienced difficulty obtaining several types of supplies needed to protect its front-line workforce during the COVID-19 response, ranging from N95 masks to isolation gowns," Oakley said. "This situation put stress on an already overburdened acquisition and logistics workforce."

Oakley testified Tuesday during a hearing of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Senators brought Oakley, along with VA health officials, to Capitol Hill to question them about improving

the department's supply chain.

In March and early April — while VA nurses and other medical workers protested that a lack of personal protective equipment created dangerous working environments at hospitals nationwide — VA officials insisted there was no shortage. They later admitted their supply chain was strained and they had taken steps to ration masks.

Richard Stone, the leader of the VA health care system, said Tuesday that "no facility at VA

ever ran out of protective equipment." The department is working to gather as many supplies as possible in case of a second wave of the virus, he said.

As of now, all VA hospitals have a 30-day supply of personal protective equipment, Stone said. His goal is to secure a 60-day supply. If there is a second wave of the coronavirus, facilities will need a six-month supply of equipment on hand.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Pandemic spurs record-breaking sales for DeCA, exchanges slump

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

Sales at Defense Commissary Agency locations reached record highs in recent months as coronavirus restrictions sent shoppers dashing to stock up on essentials, while military exchanges generally saw sales plummet following store closures and other limits.

March 13 was DeCA's biggest sales day ever worldwide, and two other days that week ranked in the top 15 all time for the agency, which was established in 1990 in an effort to consolidate stores run separately by the services, in some cases for more than a century.

"It was crazy," said Christine Davinich, commissary officer at Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois. "It was an all-hands-on-deck experience."

The second week of March was particularly busy.

"Every restaurant in the state was about to shut down, so there was probably some panic buying," she said. "Every day was as busy as I've ever seen the store."

Sales at the Great Lakes commissary rose 39.4% in March

compared to a year earlier, as shoppers spent more than \$1.7 million. The total for March 13 was \$176,663.59.

The same picture generally played out at commissaries overseas.

At Ramstein Air Base in Germany, the previous day high for sales had been about \$225,000, store director Kevin Kegler said. "We just smashed that to pieces," he said, pointing to two single-day totals in March that topped \$320,000.

Ramstein topped DeCA in transactions in April and May, Kegler said, even outpacing stores that traditionally have much larger sales in the States.

DeCA's sales in March reached almost \$500 million, a 30% increase from 2019, Virginia Penrod, acting assistant defense secretary for manpower and resource affairs, said in a statement.

They tapered off in April but still rose 8% over last year to almost \$400 million. May figures were not available yet, Penrod said.

DeCA was the 86th-largest retailer in the U.S. in 2019 in terms of sales, according to the National

Retail Federation, with a total of \$4.98 billion. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service was 62nd with \$7.5 billion in sales.

The pandemic has been a lot tougher on AAFES. Many exchanges around the world were shuttered or sales were limited during various restrictions imposed by state or host country governments.

Sales fell 7% in March and 20% in April from a year earlier, spokeswoman Julie Mitchell said.

"May sales are expected to show improvement vs. April 2020, but will likely remain below pre-COVID-19 levels," Mitchell wrote in an email.

Online sales, however, are up 92% so far this year, she said.

DeCA did have some troubles despite the high sales volume. Stockers had trouble keeping the shelves full, even with the assistance of active-duty volunteers at many locations. In some cases, stores had nothing to stock.

"The entire store got emp-tied," at one point, Davinich said. "We put limits on basically everything."

There are still lines most morn-



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Claudia De Luca Ceros checks stock in the medicine aisle at the commissary at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on May 10.

ings to get into the store, Davinich said. But there are limits on only three types of products: sanitizers, cleaners and hand soap.

Great Lakes decided to extend shopping privileges to civilian first responders, Davinich said.

The store has implemented other changes, such as shopping hours exclusively for senior citizens. Every cart is sanitized between each use, and one-way aisles were established to help maintain social distancing.

In many locations, the number of store visits actually dropped, even as sales rose.

At Fort Ord in California, 20,504 customers shopped in April, a fall of more than 1,500 from the previous year, store director Alex King said. But sales

still increased from \$1.44 million to \$1.76 million.

At other locations, the higher sales have meant restrictions on who can shop had to be imposed.

At Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, only active-duty personnel, their families and mission-essential personnel have been allowed to shop since April 8, store director Richard Mears said in an email.

Store sales rose after groceries outside the fence started running out of products initially. The Nellis commissary eventually had to impose sales limits as well.

"This is something we will remember for many years to come," Mears said.

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STARS AND STRIPES

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Job woes said not done, even if no 2nd wave

Associated Press

PARIS — The virus crisis has triggered the worst global recession in nearly a century — and the pain is not over yet even if there is no second wave of infections, an international economic report warned Wednesday.

Hundreds of millions of people have lost their jobs, and the crisis is hitting the poor and young people the hardest, worsening inequalities, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its latest analysis of global economic data.

"It is probably the most uncertain and dramatic outlook since

If the coronavirus re-emerges later in the year, the global economy could shrink 7.6%, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said.

the creation of the OECD," Secretary General Angel Gurria said. "We cannot make projections as we normally do."

In the best-case scenario, if there is no second wave of infections, the agency forecast a global drop in economic output of 6% this year, and a rise of 2.8% next year.

If the coronavirus re-emerges later in the year, however, the global economy could shrink 7.6%, the OECD said.

"With or without a second outbreak, the consequences will be severe and long-lasting," the report says.

Global stock markets dropped after the release of the report,

which is more downbeat than other forecasts from the likes of the World Bank.

Gurria argued that "presenting the problem as the choice between lives and livelihoods, meaning a choice between health and the economy, is a false dilemma. If the pandemic is not brought under control, there will be no robust economic recovery."

In case of a second wave of contagions, the OECD forecast that the average unemployment rate across the 37 developed countries that it represents would double this year to 10% and see "little recovery" in 2021. In the more optimistic scenario, the figure would

be 9.2%. In poorer countries, the numbers are often higher, and informal workers are especially vulnerable.

The agency urged governments to tackle inequalities by investing in health care systems, global cooperation on medical supplies, vaccine and treatments and re-training people whose sectors are the hardest-hit.

The virus has infected 7.2 million people worldwide and killed at least 411,000, according to official figures tallied by Johns Hopkins University. The true toll is believed to be much higher.

Divides unmasked as some lawmakers don't cover faces

BY DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — To the issues creating a partisan divide in state legislatures across the U.S., add this one: masks.

Many Democratic lawmakers are wearing them amid the coronavirus outbreak while many Republicans refuse.

"Public health has become partisan," bemoaned South Carolina state Rep. Kambrell Garvin, a Democrat who recently became ill from COVID-19.

As legislatures around the country resume work following coronavirus suspensions, Democrats and Republicans also have split over social distancing, remote voting and the extension of emergency powers for governors who had ordered businesses to close and residents to remain home.

Lawmakers have become ill from the coronavirus in nearly half the states, with Democrats accounting for about two-thirds of the 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to an Associated Press tally. Three lawmakers died of the virus — a Michigan Democrat in late March and Republicans in Louisiana and South Dakota in early April.

Partisan divisions appear to have grown since then, particularly in the South and Midwest, as some Republicans pushed to reopen the economy faster than some Democrats. While there have been exceptions, mask-wearing divisions among Democrats and Republicans have been evident during recent legislative sessions in Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee.

In Illinois, GOP Rep. Darren Bailey was removed from a convention center functioning as the House floor last month for refusing

to wear a mask. His ejection came moments after the Democratic-led chamber approved a mask mandate with support from some Republicans in a move Bailey considered "a show."

"The mask is not about health. It's about more bureaucracy and more government control, of which the liberal Democrat thrives on," Bailey told the AP.

When Pennsylvania Republican Rep. Andrew Lewis announced through a news release that he had self-isolated and recovered from COVID-19, Democratic colleagues expressed outrage that his diagnosis had been kept secret from them for a week. Democrats demanded changes requiring lawmakers to wear masks in the Republican-controlled legislature, but GOP legislative leaders have not acted on the request.

In Ohio, a Democratic proposal to require masks at House sessions and committee meetings was defeated last month in the Republican-led chamber. A Republican lawmaker then filed legislation to bar mask requirements statewide unless approved by two-thirds of lawmakers. That measure is pending.

Some trace the partisan divergence on coronavirus precautions to the very top of American politics. Republican President Donald Trump hasn't publicly worn masks, not even while announcing federal recommendations that Americans wear face coverings in public to help fight the spread of the virus.

"I think that when our president, from a national standpoint, signals that masks aren't politically expedient, then I think that trickles down to the local and state level," said Garvin, the South Carolina Democrat who has worn masks both before and after his coronavirus illness.

Several recent studies using polling and smartphone GPS data have shown that Democrats



Republican members of the Kansas House of Representatives listen to humorous announcements as they prepare to take a lunch break, at the Statehouse in Topeka on June 4. During a two-day special session of the Legislature most GOP lawmakers did not wear protective masks; most Democrats did.

are more apt than Republicans to embrace social distancing in public, wear masks and stay at home because of the coronavirus.

Virus precautions have started to become an ideological means of group identification similar to partisan divisions over abortion or other hot-button issues, said psychology professor Hank Rothgerber of Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.

"Democrats now have identified themselves as the party that's taking this more seriously and is more concerned about public health," Rothgerber said, "and Republicans are identifying themselves as a party that is focused on opening the economy back up and not overreacting to this crisis."

When the Missouri House met in early April to pass a coronavirus budget bill, Republican leadership imposed strict social distancing. Lawmakers listened to proceedings over the internet in offices until summoned to the chamber in small groups to vote. Nearly everyone wore masks.

Yet those precautions were abandoned as the House finished

its session in May. Lawmakers sat packed together at desks and few Republicans wore masks, though numerous Democrats still did.

Democratic Rep. Joe Runions, who had been out for six weeks with COVID-19, was aghast at what he described as "inconsiderate and selfish" behavior.

"To me, leadership starts with, you put that mask on, I don't care who you are — the president, the governor, the pope, whoever," Runions said.

Republican House Speaker Elija Haahr noted that lawmakers' temperatures were checked as they entered the Capitol.

Health screenings also were required of legislative staff and media at the Alaska Capitol, although lawmakers could skip it. Protocols said masks were required. But Republican state Sen. Lora Reinbold didn't wear one.

"It didn't make sense to me," Reinbold said. "I saw no research cloth, silk, cotton face coverings ... that they prevent COVID."

The coronavirus can be spread through respiratory droplets when people cough, sneeze or

talk. The CDC, says cloth masks can help prevent people, who may not realize they are infected, from spreading the virus to others.

"The whole idea behind it is 'I wear my mask to protect you,' and it's not so much to protect me," said Kansas Democratic Rep. Barbara Ballard, who wore a mask festooned with the University of Kansas mascot during a legislative session last week.

Kansas House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins, who like many Republicans remained mask-less, said face coverings diminish personal communication because you can't see lips. Republicans, he said, are "a very independent lot" who "really don't like to be told what to do."

Colorado state Sen. Jim Smallwood, a Republican who had recovered from a mild case of the coronavirus, wore a mask that slipped off his nose as he argued unsuccessfully last month against a Democratic rule change allowing lawmakers to vote remotely without attending sessions.

"I feel like it sets a good example and it puts other people at ease," Smallwood told the AP.

NATION

Video shows people looting NYC Macy's

NEW YORK — Security video shows over a dozen people smashing Macy's flagship store in Manhattan last week during unrest over George Floyd's killing.

The video released by police Tuesday shows two people smashing a glass door with a hammer and baseball bat on the night of June 1 at the Herald Square store. Others are seen prying open a revolving door before entering and grabbing purses and other goods. One man appears to stuff merchandise into a garbage bag.

In all, police released security photos of 15 people. They said that they made off with about \$10,000 worth of merchandise.

Macy's has said that the damage to the store can be fairly easily repaired.

Confederate monument covered with trash bags

PORSCHEMOUTH, Va. — Protesters in Portsmouth, Va., covered a Confederate monument in the city with trash bags and sheets Wednesday, several hours after city council members had a meeting to figure out ways to relocate it.

A white sheet that read "BLM" covered the fence in front of the monument hours after the Portsmouth city council met to discuss who owns the figure, WAVC-TV reported. The question about who owns the monument has been the main roadblock in the city's yearslong quest to remove it.

During the council's meeting Tuesday, Mayor John Rowe asked the city attorney if Portsmouth has the right to move the 127-year-old memorial. In 2018, a judge denied the city's claim to own the monument because no one else had tried to claim it.

The local chapter of the NAACP and protesters have called for the monument to be taken down, but some council members oppose removing the statue without a citywide vote, WAVY reported.

Pope sends a message to US Catholics

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis called George Floyd by name, and supported an American bishop who knelt in prayer during a Black Lives Matter protest.

Cardinals black and white have spoken out about Floyd's death, and the Vatican's communications juggernaut has shifted into overdrive to draw attention to the cause he now represents.

Under normal circumstances, Floyd's killing at the hands of a white police officer and the global protests denouncing racism and police brutality might have drawn a muted diplomatic response from the Holy See. But in a U.S. election year, the intensity and consistency of the Vatican's reaction suggests that, from the popo on down, it is seeking to encourage anti-racism protesters while making a clear statement about where American Catholics should stand ahead of President Donald Trump's bid for a second term in November.

From the Associated Press

Floyd's brother to lawmakers: 'Stop the pain'

By LISA MASCARO
AND ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Philonise Floyd, a brother of George Floyd, said that he's testifying to Congress because he wants his brother's death to be "more than another name" on a growing list of those killed during interactions with police.

Floyd's appearance before a House hearing Wednesday comes a day after funeral services for George Floyd, who has become a worldwide symbol in demonstrations calling for changes to police practices and an end to racial prejudices.

"If his death ends up changing the world for the better, and I think it will, I think it has, then he died as he lived," Philonise Floyd said, according to an advance copy of his remarks.

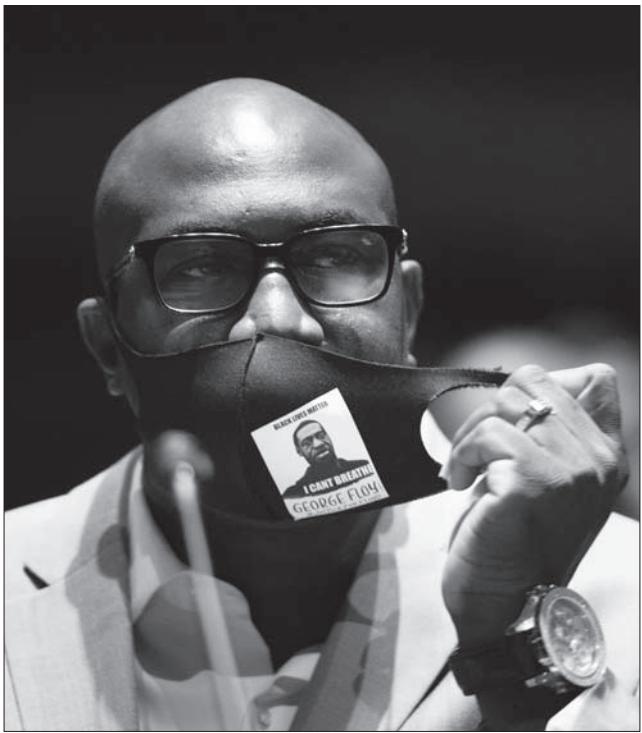
He said that he wants to make sure his brother is "more than another face on a t-shirt. More than another name on a list that won't stop growing."

"I'm tired. I'm tired of the pain I'm feeling now and I'm tired of the pain I feel every time another black person is killed for no reason," Floyd said. "I'm here today to ask you to make it stop. Stop the pain. Stop us from being tired."

Floyd said, "The people marching in the streets are telling you enough is enough. Be the leaders that this country, this world, needs. Do the right thing."

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler gavelled in the session as Democrats review the Justice in Policing Act, a far-ranging package of proposals amid a national debate on policing and racial inequity in the United States.

Lawmakers will also hear testimony from civil rights and law enforcement leaders at the congressional hearing on proposed changes to police practices and accountability.



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI, POOL/AP

Philonise Floyd, a brother of George Floyd, removes his mask to speak during a House Judiciary Committee hearing on proposed changes to police practices and accountability on Capitol Hill on Wednesday in Washington.

Investigators say Guard fatally shot man during protests

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Louisville barbecue cook was fatally shot by a National Guard member after the cook fired his gun as law enforcement approached on a night of protests, a state official said Tuesday.

David McAtee was killed May 31 while he was cooking at his eatery miles away from the downtown demonstrations. Louisville Metro Police and National Guard soldiers were in the area responding to a report of a crowd gathering when the shooting occurred.

J. Michael Brown, secretary of the state's executive Cabinet, said Tuesday that Kentucky State Police investigators examined shrapnel from McAtee's body and matched it to rifles carried by National Guard members.

"So it's clear, the fatal shot came from the National Guard," Brown said. "We have no doubt about that."

Officers were seen on a video distributed by Louisville Metro Police shooting pepper balls into the area where McAtee was cooking outdoors. But Brown said that he believes McAtee fired the first live round.

"I believe Mr. McAtee fired the first shot, paused and then fired another shot," Brown said. McAtee was hit once in the chest and died at the scene.

National Guard members "were returning fire, which is part of the engagement and what any law enforcement would do in that case," Brown said.

Brown said that investigators recovered two shell casings from McAtee's handgun, and found gunshot residue on his body.

Brown said that two guard members were in the vicinity where shell casings were found, but the shrapnel recovered from McAtee's body was too twisted to match it to a specific rifle.

Investigators also recovered

shell casings from shots fired by Louisville police, and the findings excluded those officers from firing the fatal shot, Brown said.

The evidence released Tuesday shows that officials are "committed to getting that truth out — good, bad or ugly," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said.

The National Guard was in the city to help enforce a curfew amid protests spurred by the deaths of George Floyd in Minnesota and Louisville native Breonna Taylor. Taylor was shot by Louisville detectives serving a warrant in her home in March.

The video released by Louisville Police appears to show McAtee firing a gun from the door of his restaurant as officers shot projectiles. Video from a different camera posted outside the building shows a beverage container on a table outside the door exploding and falling to the ground just before smoke emerges from inside the building where McAtee

was standing.

A lawyer for McAtee's family, Steve Romines, said Monday that investigators should release all video linked to the shooting.

Romines also said that Louisville officials and police should accept responsibility and apologize for violating use of force policies the night of the shooting. He said that McAtee's niece was hit multiple times with pepper balls as she stood at the door of his business.

Louisville police are conducting their own investigation of the shooting. As part of its own ongoing investigation, state police will review available video, frame by frame, Brown said.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer fired the city's police chief after the shooting because Louisville officers did not have body cameras running during the incident. The chief, Steve Conrad, announced his retirement last month but was going to stay on until the end of June.

NATION

Administration is against extending unemployment plan

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration opposes a Democratic proposal to extend a \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit approved in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia said Tuesday.

The \$600 payment, which is in addition to normal unemployment benefits, "was the right thing to do," Scalia said, but is no longer needed as the economy begins to recover.

The money, included in a government relief package enacted in late March, has helped millions of workers stay in their homes and pay bills even as the unemployment rate surged to its highest levels since World War II.

The payments are set to expire July 31, and Democrats have pushed a plan that would extend the enhanced benefit through January. The Democratic-led House approved the proposal last month, but it is considered unlikely to advance in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Scalia pointed to an unexpectedly rosy jobs report released last Friday. By the end of July, "we expect the economy to be deep into the process of reopening with shutdown orders ended and millions of Americans freed to return to work," he told the Senate Finance Committee.

Unemployment benefits will still be needed in August and beyond, "but the circumstances that originally called for the \$600 plus-up will have changed," Scalia said. "Policy will need to change as well."

Democrats challenged that view, saying the unemployment rate is likely to remain at historically high levels through the summer at least.

Friday's jobs report showed that unemployment dropped unexpectedly in May to 13.3% as reopened businesses began recalling millions of workers faster than economists had predicted, but the jobless rate is still on par with what the nation witnessed during the Great Depression.

Watching President Donald

DO YOU KNOW?

The \$600 payments some are receiving in addition to normal unemployment payments are scheduled to expire on July 31. Democrats have pushed a plan that would extend the enhanced benefit through January.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Trump "celebrate victory" Friday as the jobs report was released "is yet another sign that he doesn't understand what it's like for people born without a real-estate portfolio," said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the panel's top Democrat.

"Speaking conservatively, more than 20 million Americans are still out of work today," Wyden said, "and I bet you're not celebrating if you're among the many people who don't know how they're going to pay the rent or put food on the table this month."

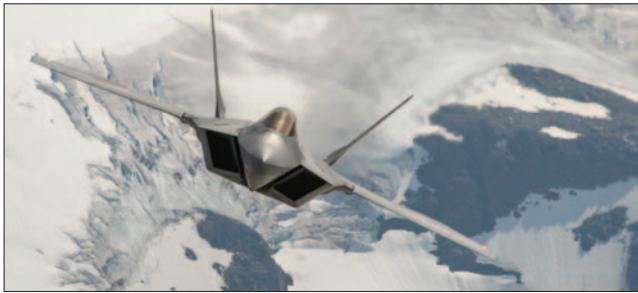
Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the Finance Committee chairman, said the \$600 weekly payments were "poorly targeted," with the result that most recipients are being paid more on unemployment insurance than they earned when they were working.

"This discourages people from returning to work or taking a new job, delaying the recovery," Grassley said.

Grassley and other Republicans cited a report by the Congressional Budget Office indicating that extending the \$600 payments through January would mean that about 5 of every 6 recipients would receive benefits higher than the amount they would have earned from working.

Grassley said he hears from Iowans who wonder why they are earning less than others who are getting unemployment benefits. Employers also have complained that the generous benefits are resulting in fewer applicants for job openings, he said.

Wyden called that evidence anecdotal and said the idea that Americans don't want to go back to work "is dead wrong and insulting."



James Richardson/U.S. Air Force

A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. F-22 Raptors intercepted two formations of Russian military aircraft just off the Alaskan coast on Wednesday.

Stealth fighters intercept Russian warplanes just off Alaska's coast

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two formations of Russian military aircraft featuring four bombers and two fighter jets flew unusually close to American airspace Wednesday morning but were intercepted by F-22 fighters off Alaska's coast, U.S. military officials said.

The first formation intercepted

by the U.S. Raptor stealth fighters flew within 20 nautical miles of Alaska's shore, bringing the Russian aircraft within 8 nautical miles of sovereign U.S. airspace, U.S. Northern Command said in a statement. The incident Wednesday marked the closest that NORTHCOM officials have acknowledged Russian planes have flown to U.S. territory in recent years.

The first formation intercepted included two Tu-95 Bear bombers, two Su-35 Flanker fighter jets and an A-50 airborne early warning and control aircraft, NORTHCOM said.

The second formation intercepted a short time later included

two additional Bear bombers and another A-50, the statement said. Neither formation entered American territory, officials said.

Like the Russians, the U.S. military regularly flies aircraft near Russian airspace on a variety of operations.

The F-22s scrambled Wednesday were supported during the intercepts by KC-135 Stratotankers and an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control aircraft, which are assigned to the homeland defense mission under the North American Aerospace Defense Command, a joint U.S.-Canadian operation that defends the airspace of both countries. The command is led by the U.S. NORTHCOM commander, Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy.

The intercepts showed the United States is prepared to defend its territory, O'Shaughnessy said in a statement. The commander previously said he expected Russian aircraft to test American air defenses as the country deals with the coronavirus pandemic.

"Flying air patrols protect the approaches to our nations and send a clear message we continue executing our homeland defense missions with the same capability and capacity we always bring to the fight," O'Shaughnessy said Wednesday in the statement.

NORTHCOM last reported intercepting Russian aircraft off Alaska's coast on May 20. That incident similarly saw four Bear bombers and two Flanker fighter jets enter the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone, an area of almost entirely international airspace that stretches 200 miles of Alaska's coast. The United States expects aircraft entering that zone to identify themselves in the interest of national security. Military officials did not say precisely how close Russian aircraft came to Alaska's coast in that incident.

Russian military aircraft were intercepted by U.S. fighter jets off Alaska's coast in incidents in March and April as well, according to NORTHCOM.

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Chief promises Minneapolis police reform

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Police Department will withdraw from police union contract negotiations, Chief Medaria Arradondo said Wednesday as he announced the first steps in what he said would be transformational reforms to the agency in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Arradondo said a thorough review of the contract

is planned. He said the contract needs to be restructured to provide more transparency and flexibility for true reform. The review would look at matters such as critical incident protocols, use of force, and disciplinary protocols, including grievances and arbitration.

He said it's debilitating for a chief when there are grounds to terminate an officer and a third-party mechanism works to keep that person on the street.



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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

Runoffs set in at least 5 Georgia congressional primaries

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia will see runoffs in at least five congressional primaries, including battles for open seats in suburban Atlanta, northeast Georgia and northwest Georgia. Incumbent Democrat David Scott was also forced into a runoff for his party's nomination in his suburban Atlanta district.

Four other U.S. House incumbents won their primaries, including U.S. Rep. John Lewis, who was nominated for an 18th

term in Congress representing Atlanta.

Voters also got their say in long-delayed presidential primaries, even though President Donald Trump and Joe Biden have wrapped up their parties' respective nominations. Biden won Georgia's primary, appearing alongside 11 other Democrats on ballots finalized months ago. Trump was the only choice on the Republican ballot.

The Democratic Senate primary was too early to call.

With more than three-quarters of the expected vote counted as of early Wednesday,

Jon Ossoff has approximately 49% of the counted vote. He leads Teresa Tomlinson, who has roughly 15% of the counted vote, and Sarah Riggs Amico, with about 13%. The winner will challenge Republican U.S. Sen. David Perdue in November.

The race, which saw some voters waiting hours to cast their ballots Tuesday, has so far proven to be anything but predictable. Technical glitches, a lack of poll workers and high turnout contributed to long lines, prompting judges in numerous counties, including Atlanta's Fulton County, to ex-

tend voting hours.

Electoral Day had been previously postponed and campaigns were forced almost entirely online because of the coronavirus. The final days also saw widespread protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Democrats hope to be competitive in both the Perdue race, as well as a November special election to fill the last two years of the term of retired U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, a race in which Kelly Loeffler currently holds the seat by appointment.

Graham looks to matchup with Harrison

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — With his defeat of three little-known GOP challengers behind him, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham is officially embarking on the next phase of his quest for a fourth term: a general election matchup with Democrat Jaime Harrison already on pace to become the most expensive in South Carolina history.

And, just hours after Graham's victory in Tuesday's GOP primary, Harrison laid down a challenge to the veteran lawmaker, asking him to participate in a series of

four debates across South Carolina, including one at a historically black college or university.

Harrison faced no primary opposition Tuesday. Graham, 64, bested fellow Republicans Duke Buckner, Michael Lapierre and Joe Reynolds. Two Libertarians and one Constitution Party candidate also filed to seek the seat.

Graham's popularity among Republicans in his home state has recently fluctuated along with his relationship to President Donald Trump, who is supporting his reelection bid and campaigned with him in the state in February.

Following his victory, Graham, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he was "just getting warmed up" for the November election, which he said would "provide voters with a stark choice between the Democrats' socialist agenda or security and prosperity through free enterprise and security."

On Tuesday, Harrison, 44, said in a news release that South Carolina voters are "fed up with Lindsey taking this seat for granted, and they are demanding a senator who will put their needs ahead of his own."

Long lines, few polling places in Nev. primaries

Associated Press

Deanna Spikula acknowledged waits of almost three hours and The Associated Press spoke with multiple people at a Clark County site who said they waited more than four hours.

Hundreds of people were in line at 7 p.m., and Spikula projected more than 1,400 in-person ballots would be cast at the site on Tuesday. In most elections, with multiple polling places open, no more than 600 ballots come in per precinct, she said.

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man let girl, 12, drive Jeep 85 mph

FL JUPITER — A Florida man faces felony charges after police said he let a 12-year-old girl drive his SUV and told her to speed because he wanted to be a "cool father" — even though he is not her dad.

Shaun Michaelsen, 41, told the arresting officer he is friends with the girl's mother and the girl and her friend were staying with him for a few days, according to court records.

Jupiter Officer Craig Yochum said in his arrest report that he spotted the Jeep make an illegal U-turn and then speed away. He followed and the Jeep reached speeds of 85 mph in a 45 mph zone before he was able to pull it over.

Michaelsen is charged with child neglect, allowing an unauthorized person to drive and causing a minor to become a delinquent for buying the girls vape pens — he said they asked.

Spring snowstorm leaves many without power

WY LARAMIE — A late spring snowstorm closed an interstate highway and sent tree limbs crashing onto power lines in southeastern Wyoming.

Almost 10,000 Rocky Mountain Power customers in the Laramie area were without power Tuesday morning, KTWQ Radio reported.

Interstate 80 between Cheyenne and Laramie, which was closed Monday night, reopened the next morning.

Over 6 inches of snow fell in the high country of the Laramie Range and Medicine Bow Mountains.

2 survive after whale capsizes boat

NJ SEASIDE PARK — Two people survived after they were tossed into the ocean when a breaching whale capsized their boat along the New Jersey shore.

The occupants of the 25-foot boat were fishing close to the shore when the whale surfaced and knocked the vessel out of the water. They managed to swim to shore and the boat eventually washed up on the beach.

There were no reports of injuries.

The whale swam away.

Lincoln Birthplace boosts visitor access

KY HODGENVILLE — The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace in Kentucky increased visitor access and services with guidance from government health officials about the coronavirus pandemic.

The park at Hodgenville reopened access to its visitors' center, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Access will remain closed to the visitors' center bookstore, the Memorial Building and in-person, ranger-led interpretive programs.

The National Park Service is



GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSINGER-INQUIRER/AP

Razing the roof

Luke Jones, 8, watches with his grandfather, Roy Cottrell, as a crew with the Klenck Co. uses a crane with a wrecking ball to demolish the 57-year-old Gabe's Tower in Owensboro, Ky.

phasing in increased access on a park-by-park basis, it said in a news release.

Boat parade to honor Trump's birthday

MI HARRISON TOWNSHIP — President Donald Trump's 74th birthday will be celebrated with a boat parade in southeastern Michigan.

The Michigan Conservative Coalition and Michigan Trump Republicans 2020 will host the "Make American Great Again" parade Saturday. It will start at MacRay Harbor marina in Macomb County's Harrison Township and end near the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, the Detroit Free Press reported. Trump's birthday is June 14.

Matt Seely, spokesman for the coalition, said organizers are anticipating that nearly 1,000 people will attend.

Flamethrower found in car after traffic stop

MA SPRINGFIELD — Officers conducting a traffic stop in Massachusetts found what they described as a flamethrower in the vehicle, police said.

Police were conducting an anti-drag racing detail in Springfield at about 1 a.m. Sunday when officers saw a man standing up and recording video through an open sunroof, according to a Tweet from Springfield police spokesman Ryan Walsh.

Officers approached the car and spotted what appeared to be the grip of a rifle under the front passenger seat, he said. The occupants stated it was not a gun but a flamethrower.

A passenger, Brandon McGee, 33, was arrested and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon

with an active warrant and possession of an infernal machine, Walsh said.

Army Navy store closes after 83 years

RI NEWPORT — Citing declining sales, an Army-Navy surplus store that's been around for more than 80 years is closing its doors.

The Army Navy Surplus store in Newport has experienced a steady decrease in business for years, the Newport Daily News reported.

The store was first opened in 1937 by Allie Horwitz in a building across the street from its current location. Since then the store has changed owners twice and has only closed once, in 2008.

Owner Jay Patel says that for the past four years business has gone down by 15%-20% each year.

THE CENSUS

3 The number of grizzly bears captured and relocated after eating grain near Shelby, Mont. A sow and her two cubs were captured because they were coming near residences to eat the spilled grain, Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said. The sow had no previous conflicts with people so the family of bears was relocated to the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Productive year for eel fishermen, but price low

ME PORTLAND — Maine's baby eel fishermen had a productive year in the state's rivers and streams, but the price for the eels was much lower than usual.

Fishermen caught at least 9,650 pounds of the eels, which are called elvers, during a season in which they were limited to 9,688.

The elvers are valuable because they're used as seed stock by Asian aquaculture companies that raise them to maturity for use as food. They were worth \$525 per pound at the docks this year. That's much more than most fish species, but a steep decline from last year's average of \$2,091.

Theft of police car leads to pursuit, 2 crashes

NM ROSWELL — A person pulled over for a traffic stop stole a police car, setting off a pursuit into the next county in southeastern New Mexico and resulted in two crashes that left two people injured, authorities said.

The person who stole the police car fled from the scene of a head-on crash with a pickup but was arrested nearby, the Roswell Daily Record reported.

Chaves County Sheriff Mike Herrington said a deputy was injured during the chase when the deputy's vehicle hit a utility pole after swerving to avoid another vehicle. The second crash occurred when the stolen police car collided head-on with a pickup.

Town may have to raze buildings, restore dunes

NJ NORTH WILDWOOD — A popular New Jersey shore resort may have to tear down some oceanfront buildings and restore 8 acres of sand dunes and wetlands that the city said the city illegally demolished.

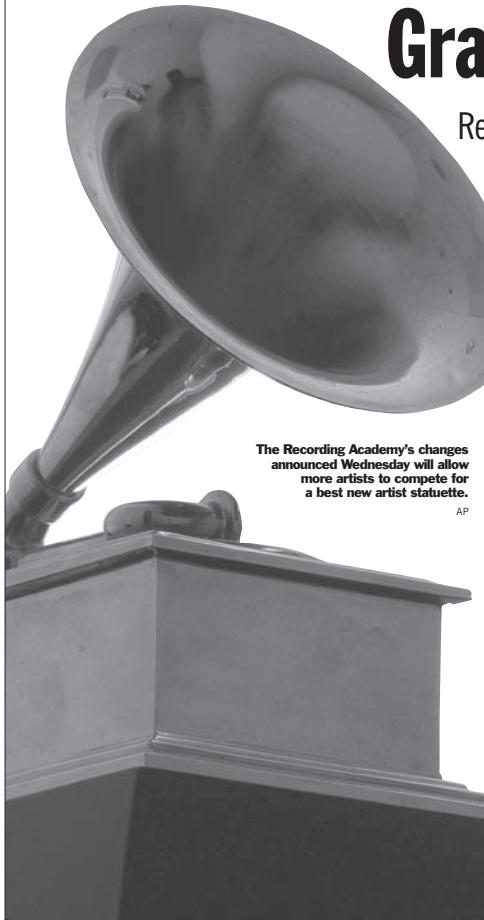
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection said North Wildwood removed mature, densely vegetated dunes containing freshwater wetlands and critical wildlife habitat without legally required permits and approvals from the agency.

It also determined that North Wildwood installed an oceanfront bulkhead without required permits.

The violation notices give North Wildwood 10 days to respond, and threaten that any work that does not receive approval from the agency must be torn down and the dunes restored to their natural condition.

From wire reports

FACES



The Recording Academy's changes announced Wednesday will allow more artists to compete for a best new artist statuette.

AP

Grammys revamp rules

Recording Academy makes changes to categories, addresses conflicts of interest on committees

BY MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

The Recording Academy is making changes to several Grammy Awards categories, including the often-debated best new artist title, and having nomination review committee members sign disclosure forms to prevent conflicts of interest.

The new rules announced Wednesday will affect the 63rd annual Grammys, which will air live on Jan. 31, 2021.

The best new artist award has been criticized for decades, and the academy has tried to evolve with the music industry by continually updating the category's rules. In recent years, the award has been scrutinized because the academy placed a song and album limit, disqualifying certain performers. But the new rules say, "there is no longer a specified maximum number of releases prohibiting artists from entering" the category.

The change will benefit younger artists, specifically rappers, who tend to release many singles and therefore did not qualify in recent years because they surpassed the 30-song limit.

The academy also said musicians invited to participate in a nomination review committee — in place to safeguard a specific genre's integrity — will have to agree to the terms of a conflict of interest disclosure form. Committee participants will have to reveal if they would benefit from an artist's nomination for that category, whether the ties are financial, familial or creative.

If a conflict is discovered, that person will not be allowed to sit on that committee that year.

Some of the changes could be a response to former Recording Academy CEO Debrah Dugan, who was fired months into her job and days before the 2020 Grammys, held in January. Dugan had said

the awards show was rigged and muddled with conflicts of interest. Questions have loomed for years around the nominations process for the Grammys, but the doubts reached a

new level following Dugan's comments.

The academy has said that nominees are selected from contenders voted into the top 20 in each category. But critics have called the voting less than transparent, because the choice of finalists happens behind closed doors. That has stirred claims that members of key nominating committees promote projects they worked on or projects they favor based on personal relationships.

The organization also said it is making its 66-page rules and guidelines book public for the first time, at Grammys.com, starting Wednesday.

Songs and albums released between Sept. 1, 2019, and Aug. 31, 2020, will be eligible for nominations at the 2021 Grammys. There are 84 categories.

Other changes approved by the board:

■ The best rap/sung performance Grammy will now be called best melodic rap performance. The category was originally titled best rap/sung collaboration and was established at the 2002 Grammys for collaborations between rappers and R&B or pop singers. For the 2017 Grammys, the academy renamed it and allowed solo artists who sing and rap on a song — from Drake to Chris Brown — to compete. The newly titled category, available to solo performances or collaborations, now "requires a strong and clear presence of melody combined with rap cadence, and is inclusive of dialects, lyrics or performance elements from non-rap genres including R&B, rock, country, electronic or more."

■ The best urban contemporary album award, which debuted at the 2013 Grammys and represented R&B albums that fused elements of other genres, from rock to dance, has been renamed to best progressive R&B album. Qualified albums should "include the more progressive elements of R&B and may include samples and elements of hip-hop, rap, dance, and electronic music."

■ The Latin pop album Grammy has expanded and been renamed best Latin pop or urban album, while the best Latin rock, urban or alternative album will now be called best Latin rock or alternative album.

HBO Max pulls 'Gone with the Wind,' will add context

Associated Press

HBO Max has temporarily removed "Gone with the Wind" from its streaming library in order to add historical context to the 1939 film long criticized for romanticizing slavery and the Civil War-era South.

Protests in the wake of George Floyd's death have forced entertainment companies to grapple with the appropriateness of current and past productions.

In an op-ed Monday in the Los Angeles Times, filmmaker John Ridley urged WarnerMedia to take down "Gone with the Wind," arguing that it "romanticizes the Confederacy in a way that continues to give legitimacy to the notion that the secession movement was something more, or better, or more noble than what it was — a bloody insurrection to maintain the 'right' to own, sell, and buy human beings."

In a statement, the AT&T-owned War-

nerMedia, which owns HBO Max, called "Gone with the Wind" "a product of its time" that depicts racial prejudices.

"These racist depictions were wrong then and are wrong today, and we felt that to keep this title up without an explanation and a denouncement of those depictions would be irresponsible," the statement said.

The company said that when "Gone with the Wind" returns it will include "historical context and a denouncement of those very depictions, but will be presented as it was originally created, because to do otherwise would be the same as claiming these prejudices never existed."

Based on a 1936 book by Margaret Mitchell, "Gone with the Wind" is a historical epic about a romance between Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh), the daughter of a Georgia plantation owner, and Rhett

Butler (Clark Gable), a gambler who joins the Confederacy. It remains the highest-grossing film of all time when adjusted for inflation. It won eight Academy Awards including best picture and best supporting actress for Hattie McDaniel, the first black actress to be nominated or win an Oscar.

'Cops,' on air for 33 seasons, dropped by Paramount

After 33 seasons on the air, the reality show "Cops" has been dropped by the Paramount Network as protests against police proliferate around the world.

"Cops" is not on the Paramount Network and we don't have any current or future plans for it to return," a spokesperson for the cable channel said in a statement Tuesday.

It's not clear whether the company that

makes the show, Langley Productions, would try to find a new home for it. A voice-mail at a company phone number was not accepting messages.

"Cops" aired on Fox for 25 years until 2013, when Viacom-owned Spike TV picked it up. Spike was re-branded as the Paramount Network in 2018.

Other news

Four cast members are not returning for another season of Bravo's "Vanderpump Rules" — two over their racist social media posts, and the others after they racially profiled a coworker. Bravo released a statement Tuesday confirming that Stassi Schroeder, Kristen Doute, Max Boykin and Brett Capriano would not return to the reality series, which will air its final episode of season eight next week.


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OPINION

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON
 Tuesday was primary day in West Virginia, and the Republican-led state government there did something sensible that other states should embrace: They made it easier to cast absentee votes.

All 50 states permit absentee balloting, but they don't always make it simple. West Virginia is one of about 16 states that require a medical or other excuse. But because of COVID-19, West Virginia declared a general medical excuse, and mailed absentee ballots to all 261,000 voters who asked for them. By Tuesday, about 85% of those ballots had been cast and received. "The voters should have confidence in the system," Andrew "Mac" Warner, the West Virginia secretary of state, told me in an interview Tuesday. He's a pro-Trump Republican. But he's also a 23-year Army veteran, and he knows how hard it can be to vote. Absentee voting presents opportunities for fraud, he says, but they can be managed.

Warner and other conscientious state officials are among my heroes as we head toward the November 2020 presidential election. We can see trouble ahead, because of the pandemic and the divisiveness in our politics, and we should think now about how to avert a potential national disaster coming toward us like a car wreck in slow motion.

President Donald Trump, who's well-behaved for Vice President Joe Biden in most polls, is already setting the table to challenge the result. In a year when mail-in voting will probably be needed as never before because of the pandemic, Trump is

claiming such absentee balloting will produce a rigged election.

Trump last month attacked Michigan and Nevada's absentee balloting plans as "Voter Fraud" scenarios. When he later tweeted on May 26, "There is NO Way (ZERO) that Mail-In ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent," Twitter took the unusual step of tagging his message with a warning that pointed users to contrary evidence.

Trump tried this same delegitimization in 2016, when most polls predicted he would lose. He claimed, "large scale voter fraud happening," and his campaign website pleaded: "help me stop Crooked Hillary from rigging this election." Even when he won the Electoral College victory, he claimed he had been fraudulently denied a popular vote win, again without evidence. As president, he even appointed a commission to study the supposed fraud problem, but it disbanded in 2018 after accomplishing nothing.

"We could very well be headed toward a predictable, disastrous conclusion," warns Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. "If the president's disparagement of absentee voting leads to one party thinking it's not legitimate, then the foundation is laid for a sizable refusal to accept the election's legitimacy."

An electoral crisis, added to all our other national problems, seems increasingly likely in November. We're on a collision course: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on March 10 recommended "voting methods that minimize direct contact with other people," such as mail-in votes. But Trump has derided such measures as unfair.

How can we protect our democracy from

this looming crack-up? Our fate rests with state officials who, in our federalist system, will make and enforce the rules for elections. Fortunately, like Warner in West Virginia, they seem to be taking this job seriously and, to an encouraging extent, in a nonpartisan way.

"Election officials are weighing all contingencies to ensure elections this year are secure and accessible for all voters, including increasing absentee or mail-in voting," said a May 20 joint statement from the nonpartisan National Association of Secretaries of State and National Association of State Election Directors. These are the folks who will be responsible for getting and counting the votes on Nov. 3.

Reassuring confidence comes from the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures. They note that two-thirds of states provide absentee ballots without requiring any excuse, and other states are easing the excuse requirement. The NCSL website cites studies that mail-only balloting has yielded greater voter satisfaction, lower cost and higher turnout. As for fraud worries, the NCSL counsels: "In several ways, absentee/mailed ballots are as secure or more secure than traditional methods of voting."

Here's the bottom line: Most Americans will have a right to absentee ballots in November, no matter what Trump says. Counting them will take a week or more — so we'll have a bitterly divisive post-election period, no matter what. Let's be ready for that, vigilant but also patient.

Forewarned is forearmed. This will be one of the important elections in our lifetimes. State and local officials take the protection of our democratic rights seriously. And hopefully, they won't let themselves be intimidated by anyone.

NY Times wasn't smooth handling Cotton column

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

When the New York Times' leadership recently apologized to the paper's staff for running an op-ed by Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., the enemies of "fake news" high-fived and Free Speech collapsed from embarrassment.

Heaven forbid an opinion on a newspaper's op-ed page should offend someone. It's one thing to disagree on the merits of an opinion; it's quite another to have published an opinion column, then criticized the column and then made a senior personnel decision in part because the column was published in the first place.

The Times' editorial page editor James Bennet, once a potential executive editor candidate, resigned over what should have been a blip on the continuum of lessons learned. This unnecessary spectacle isn't only disappointing but portends the gradual shrinking of the free marketplace of ideas.

Rather than defending a U.S. senator's right to speak his mind, the Times bowed to outrage — an overindulged emotion in the age of safe spaces and trigger warnings. So many Times staffers were appalled by Cotton's op-ed endorsing military intervention to quell unrest that they, in part, succeeded in pressuring the paper into issuing an apology and then making a change in its editorial leadership. And on a related note, the top editor at The Philadelphia Inquirer also resigned over the weekend for a headline that read, "Buildings Matter, Too."

It is important to note here that the

events of the year have many people, including those working in the media, on edge. An impeachment, a pandemic and then disturbing incidents of police brutality and worse have Americans upset, their emotions frayed, and people of color in particular feel worried about the safety of their families.

Cotton's essential argument was that an "overwhelming show of force" was needed as the protests unfolded and that President Donald Trump should invoke the 200-year-old Insurrection Act to "restore order to our streets." Bad idea, Tom. See how easy that was? I for one am glad to know what's inside Cotton's cerebral cavity. I disagree with his thinking for the same reasons raised by others, including former secretary of defense and retired Gen. Jim Mattis. As a member of the Kent State generation, it's against my remaining liberal sensibilities, not to mention American values, to turn our military on our own people.

The angry staffers also claimed that the op-ed was inflammatory and "contained assertions debunked as misinformation by the Times' own reporting." They pointed to Cotton's claim that antifa, a self-described anti-fascist movement opposed to the far right that can seem sort of fascist in its disruptive tactics, was behind the unrest. The piece should have been more carefully edited to make it clear that the evidence behind Cotton's claim about antifa's role is not very convincing. While his piece was far from perfect, Cotton tried to draw a distinction between violent actors and peaceful protesters.

There are many reasons and ways to disagree with Cotton's ideas and the way he presented them without censorship as prequel or apology as sequel. It is sadly ironic that the Times ultimately aided and abetted Cotton's larger goals. The Arkansas senator's presidential ambitions are well-known and, thanks to the Times, have been well-served. Already, Cotton has added at least \$200,000 to his coffers and made an instant name for himself in those quarters of the Republican Party where it is never bad politics to do harm to the media. Here's his schadenfreude-drenched tweet: "How is everyone at the @nytimes doing this morning? Did you have a late night trying to come up with an excuse to pretend you didn't cave to the woke mob?"

Bennet's mistake was in not reading the Cotton op-ed before running it, to which he has admitted. He likely assumed it had been sufficiently vetted by other editors who have said that they fact-checked and approved it. Bennet's deputy editor James Dase tweeted that he "oversaw the acceptance and review" of the op-ed. He, too, has been removed from the masthead but has moved to another position in the newsroom.

It is probably telling that the Cotton protest largely took place on Twitter, where it was sure to gain momentum. It doesn't take much courage to join a gang and cancel an opinion — or ruin a career. It does take great courage, on the other hand, to stand alone against a tide of pitchfork-wielding Twitter tyrants and defend a free exchange of ideas, even if some of them are bad.

OPINION

Powell ignored true threat to Constitution

By HUGH HEWITT

Special to The Washington Post

As a distinguished soldier-statesman, Colin Powell — a former secretary of state, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and national security adviser — is entitled to a great deal of deference to his expertise and gratitude for his service. Powell, like retired Gens. Jim Mattis, John Allen and John F. Kelly, and indeed all who have faced death to protect the U.S. Constitution, are owed continual, unbroken respect. They have mine.

But Powell is not entitled to his own definition of the Constitution. The document is public, as are the Supreme Court's rulings on what it commands and what it does not. Powell lurches into absurdity on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday, alleging that "the president has drifted away from" the Constitution.

Host Jake Tapper ought to have asked Powell how, exactly, President Donald Trump has "drifted away" from the Constitution. It is a serious charge. If Powell had been even slightly pressed, either evasion or silence almost certainly would have followed.

The Constitution contains no secret provisions on presidential Twitter use, no gnostic directions about what a commander-in-chief ought not to say. Exactly what was Powell referring to?

In truth, the Democrats have embraced a number of anti-constitutional positions. Many among them want to abolish the Electoral College, one of the two load-bearing walls on which the Constitution is built. The other — equal representation in the Senate of every state — is regularly assailed by the left, which dominates the Democratic Party.

Unconstitutional measures are regularly advanced by Democrats at both state and national levels, such as support for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, a scheme to frustrate the constitutionally mandated Electoral College. Even though



President Donald Trump speaks during a roundtable discussion with commercial fishermen at Bangor International Airport in Maine on Friday.

the Equal Rights Amendment ratification deadline expired in 1982 — almost four decades ago! — scholars and activists on the left fervently argue that the ERA can still be ratified.

Many of the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination favored the radical proposition that the makeup of the Supreme Court be expanded from nine to some number that would guarantee court approval for radical laws. There is nothing explicitly unconstitutional about such a maneuver, but its unacceptable, extra-constitutional nature is underscored by the failure of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's court-packing attempt in 1937 even though it enjoyed supermajority support in both houses of Congress.

Trump has "drifted" from the Constitution? No. Gen. Powell, it is the Democrats who seem increasingly happy to leave it behind.

The president, faced with anti-federalist demands that he seize unilateral command of the pandemic response, patiently defended the power that lies with state governors, as the Framers envisioned. When widespread violence, spawned by protests over what seems to me to be the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis while in police custody, threatened to overwhelm police departments, Trump raised the possibility of invoking the Insurrection Act and sending the military to end the destruction. But he did not — instead urging governors to call out their National Guard troops and restore order.

Trump's description of some of the governors as "weak" in a recent conference call, his blunt and uncompromising rhetoric in public remarks and his walk to St. John's Church near the White House have offended the sensibilities of Democrats and their media allies, but not the Constitution.

Only the willfully obtuse would fail to see that the Constitution is the central issue in the November election. In appointing two Supreme Court justices and 51 federal circuit court judges (so far), the president has drawn heavily from the "originalist" camp of those who stand by the Constitution as amended and historically interpreted. In this effort to buttress a Constitution-honoring judiciary, he has been ably aided by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. These Trump appointees are not legislators-from-the-bench who regard the Constitution as a "living" document, aka Play-Doh, that can be molded however a judge pleases.

Trump has not "drifted" from the Constitution. Beltway elites have. That's why they remained silent (unless they were cheering) when the FBI launched a blatantly unconstitutional attack on the 2016 presidential election. If Colin Powell, or any of the other former generals criticizing Trump lately, has condemned the actions of former FBI Director James Comey, his deputy, Andrew McCabe, or others, I missed it.

The generals' outrage is awfully selective, and it definitely is not directed at the astonishing, anti-democratic efforts of a gang that didn't like the results of the 2016 election. The silence is particularly notable because they didn't even object to an FBI plot that ran over the career and reputation of a brother-in-arms, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn. But they enjoy the freedom to publicly and selectively criticize, thanks to the First Amendment.

Trump made an incendiary and obviously erroneous claim on Sunday. That it passed unchallenged by the elite media says nothing about Trump's fidelity to the Constitution but speaks volumes about elites' ignorance of or disdain for the fundamental law of the United States.

Washington Post contributing columnist Hugh Hewitt hosts a nationally syndicated radio show on the Sunday network. The author of 14 books about politics, history and faith, he is also a political analyst for NBC, a professor at Chapman University Law School and president of the Nixon Foundation.

US troop cuts in Germany would be a huge mistake

By ANDREAS KLUTH

Bloomberg Opinion

It's always interesting to see who's celebrating. In German politics, that's currently the Left Party, a descendant of East Germany's former dictatorship that likes to brew anti-Americanism and Russophobia into a toxic populist mix.

The party's bosses are delighted about a rumor, first reported by The Wall Street Journal, that the U.S. may pull out some 9,500 of the 34,500 American troops stationed in Germany, and then cap their numbers at 25,000. Dietmar Bartsch, the Left's caucus leader, suggested that Germany should instead urge the U.S. to withdraw all its forces, and get it to take home American nukes as well. In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin must be wondering at his luck.

As with other bluster emanating from the White House under President Donald Trump, this threatened drawdown may never happen. One reason is that it would simply be too stupid from a strategic and logistical perspective, as American experts such as Ben Hodges, a former commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, have pointed out.

That's because the Americans are there not only to deter Russian aggression, which they could also do from Poland — whose prime minister immediately put up his hand to accommodate any surplus

U.S. troops. The "Amis," as Germans call the American forces, also use Germany as their hub for missions in the Middle East and Africa. GIs flying to or from Iraq and Afghanistan, for example, pass through Ramstein, the biggest U.S. airbase on foreign soil. If wounded, they get treated at nearby Landstuhl.

Some veterans of the ever-turbulent U.S.-German relationship are therefore rolling their eyes. It's possible that Trump is just having another tantrum about German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who recently said she wouldn't attend a G-7 summit Trump was planning to host, and whom Trump seems to scorn as his symbolic nemesis. The rumor could also be a Parthian shot by Richard Grenell, the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Germany, who feels snubbed by the Berlin establishment.

Others, looking beyond the Trump years, see a possible drawdown as another episode in the increasing estrangement between the U.S. and Germany. John Kornblum, a U.S. ambassador in the Clinton era, notes that Washington has for decades been reducing troop numbers in Germany — which peaked in the 1960s at 274,000 — but usually with much less media attention. Trump, Kornblum adds, "joins the last three presidents" in criticizing Germany's part in NATO's joint defense planning.

Germany has indeed been a disappointing ally. It's long spent far less on its own military than NATO members have

pledged. If it ever came to a hot war, its army would be a joke. Germany also has a tin ear to its friends' other worries. For example, it insists on forging ahead with Nord Stream 2, a second gas pipeline through the Baltic connecting Russia and Germany. Allies from Warsaw to Washington think this would make western Europe more reliant on Russian energy and eastern Europe more vulnerable.

But none of this should distract from the disaster that Trump has been for the transatlantic alliance, and the even bigger catastrophe that a break between the U.S. and Germany would be. Since World War II, German reconstruction, rehabilitation and reunification, as well as European integration, have only been possible thanks to the protection offered by America. That's why I've argued that, not only strategically but also psychologically, losing the U.S. to Trump has for Germans felt "like losing a father."

The damage of a deeper rift would imperil America's relationships and alliances everywhere. Whether he intends to actually bring U.S. troops home or not, Trump is yet again showing contempt for America's friends — by not talking to them, by bullying them and by treating them as better, and often worse, than the autocrats he coddles.

From Berlin to Paris, London, Tokyo, Seoul, Ottawa and Canberra, leaders are concluding that America's support is no

longer categorical but transactional, and that it's time to make other arrangements. The tragedy for Europe is that there may never be a credible alternative to American military protection.

The tragedy for the world is that, without the U.S. as its guarantor, the wider "West" is also ceasing to exist as an idea, leading to global instability and anxiety, or "Westlessness," as some think tankers have purred. This West — admittedly a slippery notion — represented a community of nations that saw liberal values as worth defending in a pinch, especially against authoritarianism. Germans are certainly among those doubting whether Trump's America is, in that sense, Western.

There are many reasons to hope that Joe Biden defeats Trump in November. Creeping geopolitical disintegration is a big one, and the piecemeal rift in U.S.-German and U.S.-European relations is a part of that. Let's hope the Americans stay in Germany, and that Europeans reciprocate by doing their part in military defense. Otherwise, it'll be the cynics celebrating, from Germany's anti-American Left to the auto-crazies in Moscow, Beijing and elsewhere.

Andreas Kluth is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He was previously editor in chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist. He is the author of "Hannibal and Me." This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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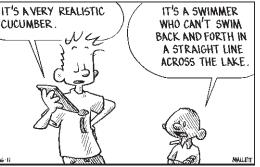
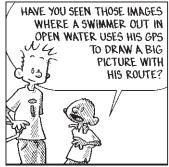
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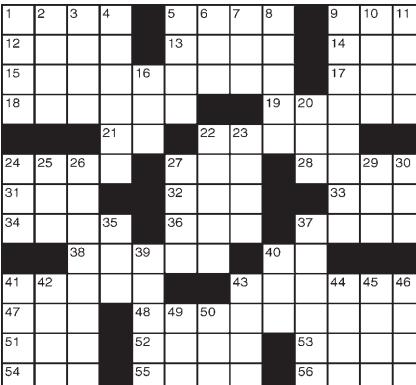
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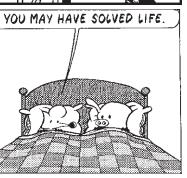
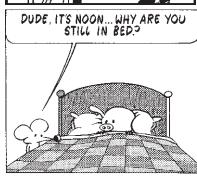
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Dilbert



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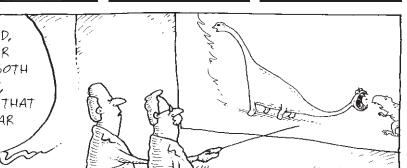
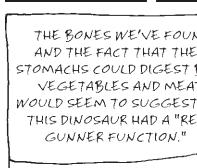
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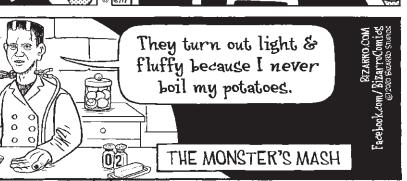
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



ACROSS

54 "Dig in!"
55 Billions of years
56 Trails

DOWN

1 "Funny!"
2 Former Yankee slugger, to fans
3 Salacious
4 Aerie baby
5 Tournament passes
6 Small batteries
7 Lanka lead-in
8 Door sign
9 "Don't give up!"
10 John in "Atlas Shrugged"
11 Channel marker
12 Anthony Quinn title role
18 Confuses
19 Void
21 Harris or Asner
22 Anthony Quinn
24 Send forth
27 Happy hour venue
28 Physics bit
31 "Mazel —!"
32 Candle count
33 "tizzy (worked up)
34 Goblet feature
36 Thai language
37 Dance move
38 Custom
40 "Ten" star Derek
41 Talent
43 Break away
47 "Awesome, dude!"
48 "Amen!"
51 Yale grad
52 Expense
53 "Blessings" author Quindlen

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	I	M	O	P	E	N	S	W	I	M
A	S	A	P	H	A	I	O	N	E	O
C	A	S	E	W	O	R	I	R	M	A
E	N	T	R	E	E	O	I	N	K	E
A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	D
B	A	H	D	I	D	N	E	A	T	O
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6-11

CRYPTOQUIP

Y Z Q G U B D M M A E M Z Q L G E X G

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Y L K Z C L K M Y D Y U G U H C M H P U H L

A U X Y U L Q : X O P M C B X O U H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE ANNUAL HAIRSTYLISTS' SHOW, A PERSON WHO TWISTS HAIR PERFECTLY COULD WIN BEST OF BRAID.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals P

MLB

Sources: Players offer 89 games, prorated money

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players moved toward teams but remained far apart economically in their latest proposal for starting the pandemic-delayed season, adamant they receive full prorated salaries while offering to cut the regular season to 89 games.

The proposal by the players' association, given to Major League Baseball electronically Tuesday evening without a negotiating session, was detailed by a pair of people familiar with the negotiations. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

MLB did not appear to view the proposal as productive but made no comment. MLB has said that absent an agreement, it could go ahead with a shorter schedule of perhaps 50 games.

Players made their move one day after management cut its proposed schedule from 82 games to 76. The union proposed the regular season start July 10 and end Oct. 11 — the day before a possible Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

The union accepted MLB's plan to expand the postseason from 10 teams to as many as 16. However, if management announces a schedule without an agreement, it would not be able to alter the established postseason format.

The players' plan would have the World Series end in mid-to-late November, and players said they would accept MLB's proposal to have the ability to shift postseason games to neutral sites.

Teams say they fear a second wave of the coronavirus and do not want to extend the World Series past October. Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem told the union a 76-game schedule could not be staged unless players agreed to a deal by Wednesday.

Players continue to insist on

full prorated salaries as specified in the March 26 agreement between the perpetually feuding sides. The deal gave players service time in the event no games are played this year along with a \$170 million salary advance.

MLB says that because the season likely would be played in empty ballparks without fans, the absence of gate-related revenue would lead to a loss of \$640,000 for each additional game played, a figure the union questions. MLB's proposal would guarantee players 50% of prorated salaries and another 20% if the postseason is completed, and teams would fund a \$50 million pool for players' postseason shares.

Players had been set to earn about \$4 billion in salaries this year before opening day was pushed back from March 26 due to the new coronavirus, and the union's initial economic proposal on May 31 called for a 114-game schedule running through October and salaries totaling \$2.8 billion. The schedule in the new plan lowered that to about \$2.2 billion.

MLB's offer Monday was for just under \$1.3 billion in salaries, but only about \$1 billion would be guaranteed. The rest is contingent on the postseason's completion.

Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole, the highest-paid players with \$36 million salaries, would get \$19,777,78 each under the union's plan. MLB's offer would guarantee each \$8,723,967 with the chance to increase to \$12,190,633 apiece if the postseason is completed.

A player at the \$563,500 minimum would earn \$309,577 under the union plan and up to \$244,492 from MLB's offer. Those at \$1 million — about half those on current active rosters — would get \$549,383 under the union proposal and up to \$389,496 in the MLB formula.

Absent an agreement, MLB could force a 50-game schedule with full prorated salaries, meaning players would earn \$1.2 billion.

Number of games under players' proposal, with players earning full prorated salaries, a total of \$2.2 billion.



RUSTY KENNEDY/AP

Wade Boggs was selected in the seventh round of the Major League Baseball Draft in 1976 and made it to the majors in 1982. The following year he won the first of his five batting titles.

Many baseball greats were drafted late — after 5th round

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

This year's baseball draft was shortened to five rounds, meaning the number of players picked was significantly smaller than usual. That could leave several potential contributors among the large group of undrafted players.

Although expectations are higher for prospects taken in the first couple of rounds, players drafted much later can and do become major league standouts. Here's an All-Star team of sorts, comprised only of players taken after the fifth round.

(The career wins above replacement figures listed are from Baseball-Reference.com. Players are put at positions where they flourished as major leaguers — not necessarily the positions they played at the time they were drafted.)

Catcher: Mike Piazza, Dodgers (62nd round, 1988, 5.96 WAR)

Only seven teams were still making selections by the 62nd round of the 1988 draft, when the Dodgers took Piazza. His father was a friend of manager Tommy Lasorda. Piazza went on to become one of the game's top hitters and he is the longest-drafted player elected to the Hall of Fame.

Others of note: Jorge Posada (24th round, 1990), Russell Martin (17th round, 2002)

First base: Albert Pujols, Cardinals (13th round, 1999, 10.08 WAR)

It didn't take Pujols long to prove himself. He was in the majors by 2001, when he won Rookie of the Year honors and drove in 130 runs. Three MVP awards later, Pujols is closing in on the end of his career — with 656 home runs and counting.

Others of note: Jim Thome (13th round, 1989), Keith Hernandez (42nd round, 1971), Fred McGriff (ninth round, 1981), Don Mattingly (19th round, 1979), Paul Goldschmidt (eighth round, 2009)

Second base: Ryne Sandberg, Phillies (20th round, 1978, 6.68 WAR)

Sandberg was originally drafted by Philadelphia but played only 13 games for the Phillies before spending the rest of his Hall of Fame career with the Chicago Cubs. He was the National League MVP in 1984.

Others of note: Ian Kinsler (17th round, 2003), Jeff Kent (20th round, 1989)

Third base: Wade Boggs, Red Sox (seventh round, 1976, 9.14 WAR)

Boggs made it to the majors in 1982, and the following year he won his first of five batting titles. He hit at least .300 15 times.

Others of note: Sal Bando (sixth round, 1965), Buddy Bell (16th round, 1969), Justin Turner (seventh round, 2006)

Shortstop: Bill Russell, Dodgers (ninth round, 1966, 31.3 WAR)

Russell actually played in the outfield at the start of his career, but he ultimately appeared in more than 1,700 games at shortstop. He was part of a famously stable infield in Los Angeles along with Ron Cey, Davey Lopes and Steve Garvey.

Others of note: Marcus Semien (sixth round, 2011), David Eckstein (19th round, 1997)

Outfield: Andre Dawson, Expos (11th round, 1975, 64.8 WAR), Jim Edmonds, Angels (seventh round, 1989, 60.4 WAR), Kenny Lofton, Astros (17th round, 1988, 65.4 WAR)

Dawson went into the Hall of

Fame in 2010, and Edmonds won eight Gold Gloves for the Angels and Cardinals. Lofton played baseball at Arizona and was on the team that made the Final Four in 1988. That same year, the Astros drafted him, although he had his best seasons with Cleveland.

Others of note: Matt Holliday (day (seventh round, 1998), Brett Butler (23rd round, 1979), Dave Parker (14th round, 1970), Jose Canseco (15th round, 1982), Lorenzo Cain (17th round, 2004)

Right-handed pitcher: Nolan Ryan, Mets (12th round, 1965, 5.714 strikeout records that still stand)

Others of note: Bret Saberhagen (19th round, 1982), Orel Hershiser (17th round, 1979), John Smoltz (22nd round, 1985), Jacob deGrom (ninth round, 2010)

Left-handed pitcher: Andy Pettitte, Yankees (22nd round, 1990, 60.2 WAR)

Pettitte won 256 games for the Yankees and Astros, plus 19 more in the postseason. He made 13 starts in the World Series alone — across eight different years.

Others of note: Mark Buehrle (37th round, 1998), Kenny Rogers (39th round, 1982)

Relief Pitcher: Goose Gossage, White Sox (ninth round, 1970, 41.1 WAR)

Gossage played for Chicago and Pittsburgh before winning the World Series with the New York Yankees in 1978. The nine-time All-Star finished with 310 saves.

Others of note: David Robertson (17th round, 2006), Josh Hader (19th round, 2012)

By the numbers

89

76

50

Number of games under players' proposal, with players earning full prorated salaries, a total of \$2.2 billion.

Games in MLB's offer Monday, which also offers players 50% of prorated salaries for a total of \$1 billion, not counting playoffs.

Absent an agreement, MLB could force a 50-game schedule with full prorated salaries, meaning players would earn \$1.2 billion.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Building: Teams being forced to learn on the fly

FROM BACK PAGE

"There's an element of this that's kind of like building an airplane as you fly in it that we're learning so much more really every week," Notre Dame football team Dr. Matt Leiszler said. "But it's a moving target at times."

For months, health officials including the NCAA's chief medical officer have said widespread and efficient COVID-19 testing is pivotal to bringing back sports. Now that exists, and at many schools every player will be tested before it is permitted to enter a team facility.

Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork said the school has conducted just under 500 tests on coaches, staff and athletes since May 18. The Pac-12 is the only major college football conference in which all the members have agreed to test all returning athletes for COVID-19.

Athletes testing positive for the disease have already been reported at Arkansas State, Marshall, Alabama, Oklahoma State and elsewhere.

Expect that list to grow, and there is no standardized protocol for testing under the most recent NCAA guidelines, which is why plans are different from school to school. Missouri initially announced it would not test all athletes for COVID-19, then said it would. Michigan State will give its athletes two PRC tests (often done with a nasal swab), with a seven-day quarantine in between, before they use team facilities. Tulane will be giving every football player PRC and antibody tests.

"You know, there's nothing that says my testing is going to protect my guys any better than their screening is going to. We don't know," said Dr. Greg Stewart, team physician for Tulane's athletic department. "And probably for most of the schools across the country, you know athletic departments are the canary in the coal mine."

Defending national champion LSU is testing each athlete for coronavirus antibodies upon arrival to campus; some will also get

a PCR test to check for an active infection. A positive antibody test at LSU will trigger a PCR test and a positive PCR test means that player will have to isolate for a period of time.

Shelly Mullenix, LSU senior associate athletic director and director of wellness, said some players who test positive for antibodies but negative for active infections will also be isolated depending on symptoms or risk of previous exposure. All players were prescribed a seven-day "quasi-quarantine," Mullenix said, after receiving their antibody tests.

Having players return to campus infected is worrisome but inevitable. The protocols being put in place are designed to catch and address that. The real challenge is keeping the players from getting infected after they return.

Notre Dame is planning to structure workout groups by academic schedules. Other schools are using a mix of factors such as keeping friends, roommates or position groups together.

As the small groups avoid infection they can be merged to form bigger groups.

Of course, there is only so much schools can do to manage 18- to 22-year-old football players.

"What you worry about is this is two hours a day, right?" Rhoades said. "And so what are student athletes, what are young men as it pertains to football, doing the other 22 hours?"

The message coaches, administrators and medical staff are trying to get across to their players is their behavior is as important as testing, screening and disinfecting. Limit the exposure to people outside the team bubble. That night out at the bar or the weekend trip to the beach could lead to an infection that sets back the whole team — or something worse.

"What we're trying to impress upon them," Stewart said, "is that if this season is important to you, then you have to do things different this year than you have done ever before and maybe even ever again."

AP sports writers Brett Martel, Aaron Beard and Teresa Walker contributed.



ROBERT FRANKLIN, SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE/AP

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly walks on the field during spring practice on March 2, 2019 in South Bend, Ind. The NCAA's football oversight committee expects to finalize a plan on Thursday to allow teams to conduct up to 12 unpadded, slow-speed practices, also known as walk-throughs, during the 14 days before the typical preseason begins in August.

Drawing up a plan

NCAA finalizing schedule for preseason

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the NCAA football oversight committee's new plan, preseason meetings and walk-throughs can begin around July 24. Then 29 days before a team's first game — Aug. 7 if the opener is Sept. 5 — the usual preseason practice period starts.

SOURCE: Associated Press

year. During that time, coaches can require up to eight hours per week of weight training, conditioning and film study. Lyons said if any tweaks are made to the plan before it goes to the council they would likely be made to this two-week period.

Around July 24, the meetings and walk-throughs can begin. Then 29 days before a team's first game — Aug. 7 if the opener is Sept. 5 — the usual preseason practice period starts.

Lyons said teams will be required to complete at least the four weeks of standard preseason before playing a game.

There has been concern among NCAA officials and athletic administrators that some schools will not be able to start their pre-season work soon enough to begin their seasons on time because of restrictions put in place by state and local authorities to fight the coronavirus.

Those fears seem to be easing now.

"It all gives us a little bit of relief knowing the campuses are starting to reopen and these student-athletes are back working out on campus," Lyons said.

What will practice look like during a pandemic? The oversight committee won't be in charge of those details. Those decisions will be made at the school level, guided by local health officials, but medical experts at the conference and NCAA level are also expected to provide guidance.



DAVE MCDERMOTT, COLLEGE STATION EAGLE/AP

Texas A&M athletic director Ross Bjork, left, says the school has conducted just under 500 COVID-19 tests on coaches, staff and athletes since May 18.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR to allow fans back in Florida, Alabama

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

NASCAR is ready to reopen to fans. One of the few sports to run in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, NASCAR is now the largest to allow fans to return as more states relax their business shutdowns.

NASCAR decided a limited number of fans can attend races this month at Homestead-Miami Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway. NASCAR says all fans will be screened before entering, required to wear face coverings, mandated to social distance at six feet, and will not have access to the infield, among other revised operational protocols.

NASCAR will allow up to 1,000 Florida service members, representing the Homestead Air Reserve Base and U.S. Southern Command in Doral, to attend the Cup Series race Sunday as honorary guests and view the race from the grandstands.

Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama



MIKE McCANN/AP

Above, the 2018 Coca-Cola 600 in Charlotte, N.C. NASCAR has said it will allow fans in limited numbers this week at Homestead-Miami Speedway and at Talladega Superspeedway.

will allow up to 5,000 guests in the front-stretch grandstands/towers for the June 21 Cup race. There will be limited motorhome/camping spots available outside the track.

"It's a cautious, conservative approach," said Daryl Wolfe, NASCAR executive vice president and chief sales and operations officer. "We feel confident in our plan. Also it doesn't mean that we won't also have additional learnings and adapt our plan going forward. That's the whole purpose of being very slow, methodical in phasing this in."

NASCAR has returned to racing, but had not allowed fans inside the tracks in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

"We're going to have a lot of hand sanitizing, hand washing," said John Bobo, NASCAR vice president of racing operations. "One of the things that I'm kind of proud of to see is we're going to have a clean team that's at track constantly cleaning everything very visibly for every guest that's there to know we're doing everything we can to keep them safe. We feel confident in the plan."

Bobo declined to reveal if NASCAR has had anyone test positive for COVID-19 since racing resumed May 17 at Darlington Raceway. Supercross said earlier this

month no one tested positive for the virus when it resumed with 705 riders, team members and race officials on site.

The Cup Series race Wednesday night at Martinsville Speedway and a double-header weekend June 27 and 28 at Pocono Raceway will be held without fans.

NASCAR said it was prepared to handle the increased crowds. Wolfe said there could be limited hospitality at Talladega.

"We're going to have PPE there for if they didn't bring their own," Bobo said. "We're going to instruct fans to do it. Then staff is also going to make sure that we do have compliance in that area when needed."

Talladega tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis to fans who purchased tickets or reserved camping for the originally scheduled April 26 race. There will be limited menus and limited food preparation onsite. NASCAR had set guidelines to safely hold the events using CDC guidelines on social distancing and personal protective equipment.

Confederate flag might be on way out for NASCAR

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

The familiar scene of Confederate flags waved by fans at NASCAR tracks could soon be a relic of racing's good ol' boy roots.

Bubba Wallace — the lone black driver in the NASCAR Cup Series — wants the stock car series with deep ties to the South to ban the flag at its properties and formally distance itself from what for millions is a symbol of slavery and racism.

There are signs that NASCAR is on its way to that move. As the nation grapples with social unrest following the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis, the predominantly white field of drivers united for a video promoting social change. A black NASCAR official took a knee before Sunday's race near Atlanta in what may have been a first for the series, and the governing body vowed to do a better job of addressing racial injustice.

Wallace — who wore a black T-shirt with the words "I Can't

Breathe" at Sunday's race — seized the moment and issued his most compelling comments yet on the topic of race and racing: "My next step would be to get rid of all Confederate flags."

"There should be no individual that is uncomfortable showing up to our events to have a good time with their family that feels some type of way about something they have seen, an object they have seen flying," Wallace told CNN. "No one should feel uncomfortable when they come to a NASCAR race. So it starts with Confederate flags. Get them out of here. They have no place for them."

Wallace arrived in the sport hyped as a trailblazer of sorts in a series that has long lacked diversity in the field. He finished second in the 2018 Daytona 500, but has had limited success and often needed patchwork sponsorship deals to keep racing. His biggest reach for now is as an agent of change: The 26-year-old Alabama native has pushed the issue of race to the front burner for NASCAR.

"We want all to feel welcome at our events in the future," said Daryl Wolfe, NASCAR executive vice president and chief sales and operations officer.

NASCAR has been more open in recent times to the eradication of the Confederate flag. Former chairman Brian France in 2015 tried to ban the flying of Confederate flags at race tracks, a proposal too broad to enforce and one that angered NASCAR's core Southern-based fan base.

Not everyone obliged and fans staunchly defended their Confederate flags and raised them from their RVs.

"Now, it's kind of a middle fin-



A Confederate flag flies in the infield before a 2015 NASCAR Xfinity auto race at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C.

ger," NASCAR historian Dan Pierce said.

But as Confederate monuments are toppled and calls for social justice continue to ring out, those fans may have run out of time.

Wallace was to make another statement Wednesday when NASCAR returns to Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. He is driving a #BlackLivesMatter paint scheme for the Richard Petty Motorsports No. 43 Chevrolet.

"I think it's going to speak volumes for what I stand for," Wallace said in a Twitter video. "We knew the Martinsville race was open, we did not sell sponsorship for that, and it was a #BlackLivesMatter idea of mine, why not run a #blackout car?"

The message is simple for Wallace: "All lives will not matter until black lives matter."

Wallace, though, conceded he rarely gave the Confederate flag much thought.

"What I'm chasing is checkered flags, and that was kind of my

narrative," Wallace told CNN.

Wallace is silent no more. He has emerged as NASCAR's outspoken leader in the wake of Floyd's death.

Wallace's fellow drivers have followed his lead and broken with past protocols, where any hint of ranking corporate sponsors often led to muted responses to societal issues.

"I think it's one of those things that some of us are just ignorant about and don't really think about it or worry about it," 2017 Cup champion Martin Truex Jr. said Tuesday. "And then you hear somebody like Bubba talk about it and he hows feels about it and it wakes you up a bit. Yeah, I think NASCAR is going to do the right thing there."

NASCAR took a hit when driver Kyle Larson was fired in April after he uttered a racial slur during a live-streamed virtual race. But drivers have forged ahead ready to create what they hope is

a new legacy in the sport.

Two-time Daytona 500 champion Denny Hamlin said he would support NASCAR taking a hard line on the Confederate flag.

"NASCAR's going to continue to make changes and I'm sure they'll look at what flags they want to fly in the infield," Hamlin said. "If you look at all the haulers each and every weekend, they've got the American flags flown all over the top of them. That's what we salute when we do the national anthem."

Ryan Blaney, who is tight with Wallace, said he joined some of the "peaceful protests" in Charlotte, N.C., and also called for the end of the Confederate flag.

"Bring your 50 stars flag," Blaney said.

2012 Cup champion Brad Keselowski was more reserved, saying: "I'm not going to tell people they need to get rid of it. That's not my right either, but I certainly don't salute it or respect it."



STEVE HELBER/AP

Bubba Wallace the only African American driver in the NASCAR Cup, is calling for a ban on the Confederate flag in the sport.

SPORTS



Plans to resume play

MLS announces tournament to begin July 8 » **Page 21**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Building bubbles



As COVID-19 rages, teams take cautious steps toward season

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

College football is scheduled to kick off in less than three months and there are plenty of reasons to be hopeful that games will be played Labor Day weekend.

Universities across the country are taking the first cautious, detailed steps toward playing football in a pandemic, attempting to build COVID-19-free bubbles around their teams as players begin voluntary workouts.

"I think the start of the year has a lot to do with how you finish it," Baylor athletics director Mack Rhoades said.

Thousands of athletes will be tested for COVID-19, though not all. Masks will need to be worn — most of the time. Some schools will have players pumping iron this week. Others are waiting a few more weeks.

SEE BUILDING ON PAGE 22

What you worry about is this is two hours a day, right? And so what are student athletes ... doing the other 22 hours?

Mack Rhoades
Baylor AD

Inside:

- NCAA working on plan for additional preparation time this summer, **Page 22**

Alabama head coach Nick Saban leads his team onto the field for a game against Duke on Aug. 31 in Atlanta. Around the country schools are taking the first cautious and detailed steps toward playing football through a pandemic, attempting to build COVID-19-free bubbles around their teams as players begin voluntary workouts throughout June.

JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Players offer 89 games, prorated salaries » **MLB, Page 20**

